

Professor has roots in dentistry

By Gail Stork

Selma Anderson's roots are deep in the UNL College of Dentistry and hard to remove.

Anderson, 77 and a retired assistant professor of oral pathology, is teaching part time in the college. She was honored Saturday at Ivy Day ceremonies as "a woman who exemplifies Mortar Board's qualities of scholarship, leadership and service."

"I was dumbfounded, stunned and a few other things," Anderson said of the honor from the senior honorary society.

Anderson, known as "Miss Andy" to her students, is the recipient of two teaching awards and numerous memberships in professional and scholastic fraternities.

Mortar Board member Cathey Davis said Miss Andy was recognized for her outstanding dedication to the Dental College and the science field.

Davis said she submitted Miss Andy's name to the UNL chapter for consideration for honorary membership because she is "phenomenal" as a teacher.

Dedication

"She impressed me with her dedication, and that anyone could teach that long," Davis said.

Miss Andy has been a part of the Dental College since 1942 when she began teaching histology and anatomy classes.

The first woman instructor at the college, Miss Andy has served under three deans. She has had positions as a medical technician in oral surgery, an instructor in oral histology and was an assistant professor in oral pathology for 20 years.

Since her retirement in 1970, Miss Andy has been "filling the gaps in an area that is short on teachers" by assisting in histology, according to Frank Wentz, assistant dean for graduate and continuing education dentistry. Davis said, "Anyone who is an alum of the Dental College knows who Miss Andy is."

Miss Andy said she was recently invited to a class reunion where she was interested to see some of her former students with more white hair than herself.

"There are even instructors at the school now who were students of mine," she said.

One of Miss Andy's former students, Dr. Vernon Wolfley, originated the Selma B. Anderson award in her honor. Since Miss Andy received the \$100 award in 1970, it has been presented each year to a graduating senior who is outstanding in oral biology.

Miss Andy said the major change she has witnessed in her 35 years at the Dental College was the college's relocation on East Campus which almost doubled its enrollment.

She said her views on students have changed too. A newspaper article from her 1970 retirement said Miss Andy thought students worked a lot harder back then. Miss Andy said she has changed her mind about that.

"People change, that's all. I guess I've changed too," she said.

Busy schedule

Miss Andy said her membership in so many organizations keeps her busy with meetings when she is not teaching.

She also has found time to travel every summer for 27 years, but she said she has no trips planned for the future.

Wentz, who said he has known Miss Andy for eight years, described her as "a lady with humanism."

"She regards a student as more than just an individual to deal with," he said.

Miss Andy's Christmas parties with homemade cookies at the end of the first semester are examples of her relationship with students, he said.

Miss Andy said she has been asked to come back to the college next year, but nothing definite has been decided yet.

"I enjoy it (teaching) or I wouldn't be there," she said.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Retired assistant professor Selma Anderson, 77, still teaches part time in the UNL College of Dentistry.

Senate president on faculty slate

The UNL Faculty Senate will meet at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Faculty Club dining room. Following remarks by chancellor Roy Young, the senate will hear a report on the election of a new senate president from the senate executive committee.

Current Faculty Senate president Henry Baumgarten will resign at the end of this semester and at the last senate meeting, April 12, a resolution was passed asking the executive committee to nominate two candidates to fill the anticipated vacancy.

However, in the committee's report, it recommends only vice president Michael Turner be nominated as the new president. In its report, the committee said Turner was selected vice president with the understanding he would succeed Baumgarten, but nominations still will be accepted from the floor.

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