

Rose Marie Pangborn, Food Science and Technology: Davis

1932-1990

Professor and Sensory Scientist

Rose Marie Pangborn, Professor and Sensory Scientist in the Experiment Station, Step VIII, served for 35 years at the University of California, Davis until her death on March 17, 1990 after a five-year struggle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Jack Pangborn, and her family, who live in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Born in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1932, Professor Pangborn earned the B.S. degree at New Mexico State University and the M.S. degree at Iowa State University. She joined the Department of Food Technology at the University of California, Davis in 1955. She taught graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of California, Davis and directed graduate research of over 40 students. Rose Marie Pangborn was internationally known as a pioneer in the field of sensory analysis of food attributes. She published over 180 scientific articles, including 12 in 1989, and co-authored three textbooks. One, *Principles of Sensory Evaluation* (Amerine, Pangborn and Roessler), published in 1965, served as the "bible" for sensory course work and research for over 20 years. She was executive co-editor of the international journal *Appetite* and served on the editorial boards of seven other scientific journals. She was a member of eight scientific societies, and was co-founder in 1978 of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences.

During 1972-1974, Professor Pangborn was Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Iowa State University honored her with an outstanding alumna award in 1971. In 1973 she received a distinguished alumna award and in 1988 an outstanding alumna award from New Mexico State University. In 1984, the University of Helsinki, Finland awarded her the Doctor Honoris Causa in Food Science. In addition to seven other professional awards and honors, she was honored in 1989 with a "Pioneer" award from the American Society for Testing and Materials to acknowledge her key role in the development of sensory evaluation from a home economics practice to a rigorous scientific discipline.

In addition to her strong research program, she was internationally known for her outstanding teaching. She received distinguished teaching awards from the University of California, Davis and from the Institute of Food Technologists (the William V. Cruess Award). Not only was her style of teaching always articulate, clear and organized, she challenged students to rise to their best. Her course, Food Science 107 (Principles of Sensory Evaluation), served as the stage on which the careers of a generation of sensory scientists were formed. Although many students complained about the enormous amount of work required in this course, most described it subsequently as the *best* course they had ever taken. Although she had exacting standards, her strongest influence on the students was through her interaction with them. Despite her international reputation and high research productivity, she always had time for each student. Her research and teaching, professionalism, and her refusal to accept anything short of excellence influenced both her colleagues and the students. Primarily through her influence, the University of California, Davis became known internationally as a center of excellence for sensory teaching and research.

Although widely known for her insistence on excellence and her long working hours, she was a person who cared strongly about others. Her influence on students was enormous. Those who took her classes often commented how she profoundly changed the direction of their lives. She had an extraordinary

ability to inspire others. In addition to her extensive teaching and research activities, and her international correspondence, she maintained a list of more than 200 former students, to whom she wrote at least once per year. Her thoughtfulness in small things is a memory shared by many people; her sense of humor was legendary.

Two years before her death, she established the Sensory Sciences Scholarship Fund (P.O. Box 1423, Davis, CA 95616), a corporation to provide funding for graduate students pursuing the Ph.D. in Sensory Science. Consistent with her life-long dedication to educating sensory scientists, this scholarship will provide a living memorial from Professor Pangborn to future students.

Ann C. Noble Louis E. Grivetti John R. Whitaker