

## **In Memoriam: Anne Wyman**

Anne Fenton Wyman, a beloved and iconic figure on the UNLV campus and the founding member of the UNLV Geoscience Department, passed away on June 23, 2009, in Boulder City, Nevada. Anne Fenton Wyman was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She was the first woman to graduate in geology from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in 1947.

At CRWU Anne met her future husband Richard Wyman, who had returned from the Navy and was studying engineering and geology. After graduating from CWRU, she attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Richard and Anne married in 1947, and attended field camp together in Wyoming (summer of 1948). Both received their Master's degrees from University of Michigan in June, 1949.

The Wymans left Ann Arbor the following year and traveled to Peru where Dick worked as a geologist at the large Cerro de Pasco mine. Anne taught classes in a one-room school (K-8) for English speaking children. The Wyman's returned from Peru in time for the birth of their son, William (Bill), born in Prescott, Arizona. Anne and Dick eventually moved to Boulder City, Nevada, and Dick was employed in the underground construction project at the Nevada Test Site. Anne searched for a teaching position and met Herb Wells at "Nevada Southern", a new, fledgling "university" in Las Vegas, soon to become UNLV.

Anne's first assignment at UNLV was to create an undergraduate geology curriculum at the bachelor's level. Using the course offerings of the best geology departments in the United States, Anne created a comparable curriculum. UNLV is, of course, in an ideal location for geology field work, and research in the surrounding environment became the main thrust of the B.S. program. Anne authored and presented two programs, (B.S. and B.A.) to the University Curriculum Committee of the Regents, and they were approved. The B.S. degree celebrated its first graduate in 1970, and this program continues to thrive. The B.A. degree soon evolved to become the B.S. degree in Earth Sciences.

Anne was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, serving two years as President of the local Chapter 100. Anne introduced and sponsored the geology honor society Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) at UNLV, which served as the active geology club during her tenure on campus. She also served two years as Western Field Representative of SGE and inaugurated the new chapter at U of Oregon. She excelled in teaching and was the first recipient of the Spanos Award as the outstanding teacher at UNLV in 1980. Anne served six years in the UNLV Faculty Senate and two years as the Chair of the Geoscience Department.

Anne also inaugurated and built the mineralogy collection, an extensive collection of mineral specimens used by students and faculty. A portion of this material is on display in the first floor lobby of the Lily Fong Building. She created and organized the collection based on the Dana System of mineralogy, using donated materials and funds from a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Mineralogy was Anne's favorite

subject. Anne taught mineralogy for many years, and together with Dick, established an endowed scholarship, the Anne Fenton Wyman Scholarship, for students who excel in the study of mineralogy.

Anne also loved geography and taught Physical Geography 101 for 25 years. From 1976-78 Anne and her husband completed a large consulting project in the Andean nations of South America, locating mineral resources and plant sites for pig iron foundries. She also served as Corporate Secretary for Intermountain Exploration, a company she owned and operated with her husband.

Anne Wyman retired in 1994, after 28 years in the Geosciences Department. During her tenure, the Geoscience faculty grew from one (herself) to twelve, with the addition of a Master of Science program and twelve graduate assistants.

Tribute gifts in memory of Anne may be directed to the Anne Wyman Scholarship and sent to: UNLV Foundation, 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 451006, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1006. Gifts can also be made online at <http://foundation.unlv.edu/give.html>. Select the link for the College of Sciences. Under "designation" please select "Anne Fenton Wyman Scholarship." Anne's name should be entered at the *very bottom* of the screen under "Tribute Information."