

# Kathleen Rhodes

*February 22, 1914 — May 12, 2002*

Miss Rhodes was born in Finchley, Middlesex County, England, part of North London, on February 22, 1914. Her early education was completed in London where she received a teaching certificate in Domestic Science from the National Society's Training College in 1935. From then through the World War II years, she taught homemaking in a senior modern school in London, adults in one of the Polytechnic Institutions in London, and organized the Department of Home Economics at N. Gloucestershire Technical College in Gloucestershire. She also taught at the Teacher Training College in Liverpool, England. Miss Rhodes came to the United States in 1945 on a scholarship from the American Home Economics Association to study home economics at Cornell. She received a Master of Science in Education degree in 1947, and a Ph.D. degree in Home Economics in 1950. From 1949-53, she worked in the New York State Education Department where she was Assistant Supervisor for home economics education in secondary schools throughout the state. She was appointed Chair of the Department of Home Economics at Douglass College, the New Jersey College for Women in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1953, and remained there until she returned to Cornell as Associate Professor of Home Economics Education in 1956. She was appointed full Professor in 1963.

Miss Rhodes was particularly interested in international work, helping new and developing institutions with curriculum development and teacher training in home economics or domestic science as it was often termed in African nations. Her interests in this field were broad; she saw home economics as a pathway for young women—both in the United States and in developing countries—to break out of a rigid family structure and restrictive larger society. West Africa provided insights into how new curricula could be effective in helping young girls and women to create a different kind of life for themselves. In the fall of 1963, Miss Rhodes went as a Fulbright Scholar to Winneba Training College and the University of Ghana to serve as curriculum development consultant. She also served on the Ghana Project Steering Committee for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization from 1964-78.

Over the years at Cornell, Professor Rhodes continued her interest in international home economics, offering courses describing and analyzing developments in the field, and becoming friend and advisor to the stream of international students who came to the College of Home Economics. She was continuously active on college and university committees having to do with international studies; the status of rural women both in the United States and abroad; and the development of college level programs in home economics which would offer students both

a view of the world they were not likely to get from other programs and an opportunity to become qualified for higher level employment as teachers and organizers in the field of home economics.

In 1978-79, Professor Rhodes' formal retirement coincided with an initiative of Dean Ziegler's to develop a formal program of international studies in the College of Human Ecology. At Ziegler's request, Miss Rhodes worked with college faculty and with the Center for International Studies in the university to create the outline of such a formal program, which would provide opportunities for Human Ecology students to study abroad for credit. Two courses were established, one which students could take before foreign study, and a second course after their return which asked them to reflect upon their foreign experience. The college's initiative came at the same time that the university was creating its Study Abroad Program so that after a few years, it was logical to fold the college's program into the university's.

Miss Rhodes was a strong believer in the education of young women for the variety of roles they could play in contemporary society. Her influence on generations of Cornell students was notable. She had a delightful personality, always cheerful, effervescent and good humored. Miss Rhodes was widely admired for her graciousness. After she had completed the project on international studies in the College of Human Ecology, retiring a second time, she shared a home in Ithaca with her friend and colleague, the late Irene Patterson. She continued to travel extensively and to pursue her many interests in education and foreign affairs.

*Jerry Rivers, Jerome Ziegler*