

*Provided on behalf of the UMSL College of Nursing*

Shirley Martin, dean emeritus of the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis passed away on July 2. She was 95.

She was a passionate advocate for why it was important for UMSL to have a College of Nursing with a full array of nursing programs. She was a tireless leader in advancing nursing education in the region and throughout the world. She was known for her collaboration and ability to convince others about the importance of nursing education.

Martin's formal tenure as the founding dean began on December 1, 1980. She had served as a consultant and developed the initial proposal for the nursing program in 1968. She served as dean from 1980-1997 and then returned as interim dean for a year in 2005. During her tenure as dean, the College of Nursing saw tremendous growth and became a leader in nursing education in St. Louis and the region. Under her leadership the College grew from offering an RN-BSN program to offering an MSN program in 1989 and a PhD program in 1994. In August 1994, she shepherded the successful merger with Barnes College of Nursing adding a 4 year traditional BSN program to the College; fulfilling her vision that UMSL would provide educational access to nurses at all stages of their career.

Her nursing career began as a staff nurse on the maternity unit at Missouri Baptist Hospital. After completing her MSN at Washington University, she served as a consultant in nursing education for the federal Agency of International Development (AID) in Iran (1959-1961) and the Dominican Republic (1967-1968). On her return from Iran, she taught at both the graduate and undergraduate levels in the nursing programs at both St. Louis University and Washington University Schools of Nursing. She served as the Department Chair of the Graduate Program at St. Louis University School of Nursing (1969-1971), Dean of the School of Nursing at Florida State University (1971-1975), Dean of the School of Nursing at Indiana State University (1975-1976) and Area Coordinator for Nursing and Allied Health at Maryville College (1976-1979).

Her impact was felt well beyond the St. Louis area. During her career she served as the President of the Florida Nurses Association (1972-1975) and the Missouri Nurses Associations (1976-1980). She was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association (1980-1983) and the Board of the American Nurses Research Foundation (1983). In 1983, she was appointed by the American Hospital Association to serve on the National Commission for Nursing. This Commission was formed to study the current shortage of nurses. She also served as the elected Chair of

the Executive Board of the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs of the National League (1985) and on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (1988-1990).

She has remained a strong supporter of the College of Nursing and served on the Leadership Council for many years and supported the college through charitable giving. The Shirley A. Martin Scholarship is awarded annually to an undergraduate pre-nursing student and the Shirley A. Martin Leadership Award is given each semester to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding participation in and contributions to the College of Nursing.

Memorial services have been arranged for Saturday, July 15, at 10:00 a.m., at St. John Bosco Catholic Church, 12934 Marine Ave., St. Louis, MO 63146.