

2005 Co-Alumni of the Year

Wilma J. Farmer Ed.D. Class of 1947



In the year 2002 Wilma completed her 50th year of service to the children of Camden. She started her career in 1952 as an elementary school teacher and finished her career as the Director of Curriculum for pre-kindergarten to 5th grade.

Her peers credit her with inspiring them to stay in Camden even when jobs offering more money or better working conditions were possible. "I could have had a job in Cherry Hill but you inspired me to stay" said Esther Krober a third grade teacher in Camden.

"I think I was destined at birth to be a teacher," Farmer said. As a child in Lawnside and Magnolia her favorite past time was playing teacher, making sure her friends and classmates raised their hands and remained seated until called on. She recalls how Ms. Mish, her English teacher at 3HS, asked her to review a lesson with the class and then commented, "You are a natural born teacher".

After graduating 3HS, Wilma went on to earn a BA and Masters at Glassboro State College and then an E.D.D. in the psychology of reading and administration from Temple University.

Even as a supervisor Wilma spent more time in the classrooms than behind a desk. She would visit all 22 schools that were under her guidance frequently. "She has been the wind beneath my wings," said school principle, Dorothy W. Wyatt.

"I am always going to be an instructor of children in some fashion, whether its tutoring, conducting programs, consulting or continuing teaching Foundations of Reading Instruction at Rowan. "Education can no longer be traditional. It must be dynamic and electric."

This doesn't sound like a retiree to us!