TRIBUTE TO ILSEDORE EDSE

It is with considerable pride and gratitude that we feature our colleague Ilsedore Edse in this Newsletter. She has served the Department and Ohio State University for thirty-eight years with unprecedented dedication and commitment. Ilsedore came to the United States from Germany after World War II. She earned her bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her teaching and service and has been inducted into several honorary societies.

Over the years hundreds of students have expressed admiration and affection for her because she was never too busy to talk with them, listen to their concerns, help them with difficulties in courses or personal problems, and to share her enthusiasm for the German language and culture. For Ilse TEACHING is more than a profession—it is a vocation which she has pursued with passion and pride. Her students and her teaching always come first. One of the visible signs of recognition for her teaching is the Teacher of the Year Award of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Student Council. It comes as no surprise to find out that she was the first woman ever to win this recognition; after all, she has many "firsts" among her accomplishments.

Second to teaching, Ilse has devoted countless hours and much of her creative energy to her RADIO and TELEVISION programs. She started producing in the mid 1950s. Her programs are filled with wit and imagination, and are always the product of considerable thought and enthusiasm. The broadcast industry, as well as her loyal listeners and viewers have applauded her work. Some of her programs have earned awards from the National Institute for Education by Radio-Television and two Emmy nominations from the Columbus Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Her programs range from language instruction, fairy tales, and culture capsules to interviews with students, colleagues and "famous" people. No German-speaking visitor to the Ohio State University Campus could escape an interview with Ilse. Many of her TV shows have endured the test of time and continue to be broadcast every week. Recently we heard from third generation viewers who are enjoying her "Wie geht’s" series.

Beyond the OSU campus, countless elementary school children, high school students, and members of the community have benefitted from Ilse's generosity. She never tires of talking about Germany and the German language. In 1980 the West German government recognized her many contributions to the profession and the community with the Bundesverdienstkreuz.

It was only fitting that the Ohio State University bestowed upon Ilse the Distinguished Service Award at its Autumn Commencement. The citation reads as follows: "Ilsedore Edse has taken her mission of education beyond the confines of the class-room. In the
last three decades she has brought to thousands enlightenment and entertainment through the German language. Her enthusiasm is contagious, her commitment steadfast, her abilities unparalleled. She has brought an element of foreign culture to the hearts and minds of many, filling an important niche in our societal experience. Over the years she has been commended for her dedication and acknowledged for the enrichment she has provided to a great many individuals. In recognition of her outstanding service The Ohio State University awards her its Distinguished Service Award on this day, the 9th of December 1988, being the 119th year of this University."

However, all the recognitions and awards do not adequately express the gratitude her students and colleagues feel for Ilsedore Edse. Her favorite description of the German Department is "my second family"--and she has always treated us as family: with kindness and generosity, with patience when we made changes too quickly, with advice when we asked, and with lots of encouragement. The list goes on. As a visible sign of gratitude her friends in the department and the College of Humanities have established an Undergraduate Scholarship Fund in her name. It is so like Ilsedore--the only gift she would accept from us is one she can give away to others. Ilsedore, we salute you!

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CONTENTS
Lectures and Presentations
Accomplishments of Members of Department
Graduate Students in the OSU Program
Recent Degrees Awarded and Exams Passed
News of Alumni and Former Colleagues
Ilsedore Edse Fund Established
Tribute to Ilsedore Edse