Frank Wood
by Kristen Mahoney

Since 1962, Frank Wood has been involved in a career of special education and general education (Schoenfeld, n.d.). As a teacher and principal of both special and general education, Dr. Wood was a professor of educational psychology and special education at the University of Minnesota from 1962-1999, and continued his role at the university as Professor Emeritus since 1995. Wood educated his students about the development and evaluation of educational programs for children with learning and adjustment difficulties through lectures and seminars (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Dr. Wood is also known for developing policies, programs, and interventions used for students with emotional and behavioral disorders.

Background Information

Dr. Wood was involved in training educators how to work with children with special needs. He conducted several studies on school adjustment and social behavior of children. During his academic career, Wood authored and edited over 120 journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. Additionally, he presented more than 150 presentations at professional meetings.
Dr. Wood co-established the Minnesota Educators of the Emotionally Disturbed and the Minnesota Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (link http://www.ccbd.net/) (CCBD). In addition to his academic responsibilities, Wood held positions at the national level, including the presidency of CCBD and the governor of both the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and CCBD (Schoenfeld, n.d.).

**Early Beginnings**

Dr. Wood graduated from Harvard College (Franken, 2007) in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History. Following graduation, Wood worked as a high school teacher in Connecticut where he taught algebra and social studies (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). In 1953, Dr. Wood completed his Master of Arts degree at Haverford College in social and technical assistance to developing nations and groups. In addition, Dr. Wood received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954 in elementary education. Thereafter, Wood served as an elementary school teach and principal from 1954-1958 (Franken, 2007).

In 1958, Dr. Evelyn Deno, a director of special education for the Minneapolis Public Schools, contacted Dr. Wood (Franken, 2007). Dr. Deno asked Dr. Wood if he would be interested in becoming an elementary school teacher for students with emotional and behavioral problems. This public school offered the
first elementary school classroom for children with emotional and behavioral problems. This changed the view of public education, where these children were once thought of as “uneducable”.

Influenced by Dr. Deno, Dr. Wood continued on to receive his M.A. (1962) and a Ph. D. (1965) from the University of Minnesota in special education and educational psychology. Dr. Wood has mentioned Dr. Deno as one of “many friends and scholars [who have] mentored me over the years,” (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009).

Dr. Wood became a faculty member of the Department of Educational Psychology’s Special Education Program at the University of Minnesota (Frank, 2007). Dr. Deno joined him. Dr. Wood became a key leader at the University of Minnesota Committee for Social Concerns. This committee advocated for equality among races, genders, and sexual orientations.

From here on, Dr. Wood would embark on a lifelong journey through the world of children with emotional and behavioral disorders.

**The World of Academia**

Dr. Wood spent the bulk of his career working for the University of Minnesota, where he held various positions (Franken, 2007). As a faculty member of the Department of Special Education, Dr. Wood worked as an instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor. He facilitated training
programs for teachers of children with learning and adjustment problems from 1962-1972 (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). From 1972-1995, Dr. Wood became a professor of special education programs and from 1972-1975 he coordinated special education programs. Dr. Wood became the director of graduate studies for educational psychology from 1987-1992. Since 1995, Dr. Wood has been a professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota.

Through many years at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Wood encountered numerous inspirational people (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Other than Dr. Deno (who was mentioned above), Dr. Wood lists three mentors from his years at the university: Professors Bruce Balow, Maynard Reynolds and Frank B. Wilderson, Jr.

When asked about his career, Dr. Wood stated:

From the classroom to the university, for almost 50 years I have had the opportunity to work with an always interesting group of people, young and old, all working to help each other grow and develop. I have always seen my own work in that broader context. I fear this sounds like toasted marshmallows, but it is the way I feel. (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009)
Awards and Honors

Dr. Wood has been honored with many awards and honors for his service (Schoenfeld, n.d.). Some of these awards began when Dr. Wood was still an undergraduate at Harvard. The following is a list of Dr. Wood’s awards and honors in chronological order (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009):

- 1982 Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, Psi Chi, Special award for contributions to the education of emotionally disturbed/behaviorally disordered students presented by Minnesota Educators of the Emotionally Disturbed,
- 1984 J. E. Wallace Wallin Award for outstanding contributions to the education of exceptional children presented by the Council for Exceptional Children
- 1987 Midwest Leadership Symposium Award for outstanding service in behavior disorders
- 1987 first recipient of Minnesota Educators of the Emotionally Disturbed "Dr. Frank H. Wood Award" to be given annually for outstanding contributions in the field of emotionally/behaviorally disordered education
- 1989 first recipient of Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CEC) Outstanding Leadership Award
- 1993 Robert H. Beck Award of the College of Education Alumni Society
- 1994 Lifetime Service Award for work with students with emotional and behavioral disorders from Minnesota Educators of the...
Emotionally Disturbed and Minnesota Chapter of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders

- 2006 one of the 100 Distinguished Alumni of the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota, 2006. (Part of the College’s 100th Anniversary celebration)
- Lifetime Achievement Award, American Re-Education Association

**Personal Facts**

Dr. Wood’s wife, Raquel, graduated from the University of Minnesota (Franken, 2007). They have been married since 1953 (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Together, they have three children and four grandchildren. After his retirement, Dr. Wood began providing transportation for homebound senior citizens in his community (Franken, 2007). Dr. Wood is an amateur photographer (Franken, 2007). He has enjoyed photographing in black and white, but more recently has been working with digital images (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Dr. Wood primarily photographs nature and the creative arts he and his family are involved in. Dr. Wood believes that taking pictures “encourages us to see in a different way,” (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Dr. Wood’s family is involved in many creative activities involving the arts and drama (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009). Dr. Wood himself is a musician. He plays the harmonica and sings in an informal country/folk band called The Earthquakers.
Dr. Wood jokingly says, “the name is probably better than the performances” (F. Wood, personal communication, October 29, 2009).

**Publications**

As mentioned above, Dr. Wood has been an author and editor of more than 120 journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings (Schoenfeld, n.d.). He has presented more than 150 presentations at professional meetings and conferences. The following is a list of publications by Dr. Wood (F. Wood, personal communication, October, 29, 2009).

**Journal Articles:**


Coopersmith self-esteem inventory scores of boys with severe behavior problems. *Exceptional Children*, 1972, 38(9), 739-740. (May)

The task of CCBD. President’s message. Behavior Disorders, 1976, 1, 66-67. (May)


Guest editor. Key issues in the development of secondary programs for children with behavioral disorders. Behavioral Disorders, 1979, 4 (whole no. 3).

Punishment and control. Education Unlimited, 1979, 1(3), 54-57. (September)

Living with the emotionally disturbed: Burden or opportunity. British Columbia Journal of Special Education, 1982, 6(1), 1-10.

Affective education and social skills training: A consumer’s guide. Teaching Exceptional Children, 1982, 14 (6), 212-216. (May)


Disturbed or disturbing? Proceedings Journal of Minnesota Association of Teachers of Emotionally Disturbed Children, 1983, 2, 4-5.


A conversation with Frank Wood. (By Sally Ryon). (1985). MATEDC Benchmark, 1, 4-5.


Appropriate special education programming can reduce the need for use of in and out of school suspension. (With Margaret Burns.) (1990). Beyond Behavior, 1, 15-17, 21.


The adolescent interpretive interview and The teaching physical exam by the Children's Rehabilitation Center, Charlottesville, VA. A review. (1989). Exceptional Children.


Books and Proceedings:


A partnership between regular and special educators: From adversaries to advocates. With V. L. Brown. In J. B. Jordan (Ed.), *Exceptional students in secondary schools*.


(Ed.) *Preparing teachers to develop and maintain therapeutic educational environments*. Minneapolis: Department of Psychoeducational Studies, University of Minnesota, 1978.

Books and Proceedings:

Social learning theory as the basis for educational planning for emotionally disturbed/behaviorally disordered students. In *Preparing teachers to develop and maintain therapeutic educational environments*. Minneapolis: Department of Psychoeducational Studies, University of Minnesota, 1978. pp. 4-18.


Books and Proceedings: (con’t)


Fitting the pieces together. For publication in the proceedings of a multidisciplinary conference on children and adolescents in conflict held at Teachers College, Columbia University. Submitted 1986.

The uses of assessment. For publication in the proceedings of a multidisciplinary conference on children and adolescents in conflict held at Teachers College, Columbia University. Submitted 1987.


Learners at risk: Research and Prospects. (To be published.) Reston, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.


Dodging the bandwagons on our way to the future. (1995). In B. L. Brooks & D. A. Sabatino (Eds.), *Personal perspectives on emotional disturbance/behavioral disorders*, pp. 424-441. Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.


**Other Papers:**


Punishment: Primary, secondary, and residual effects on school children. Paper written for use in a curriculum for regular class teachers being developed by the Region XII Education Service Center, Austin, TX. April, 1981.


Summary remarks delivered at the Midwest Leadership Symposium for Educators of Behaviorally Disordered Students. Kansas City, MO. April, 1983. (To be published in proceedings).


The law and correctional education. (Written as a training paper for the Correctional/Special Education Training Project and printed by the project), June, 1984.


General Preface of Confidential Report and Recommendations to the

References

Frank H. Wood honored with the 1984 J. E. Wallace Wallin Award [Abstract].

Exceptional Children, 51(1), 86-88.


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http://www.cehd.umn.edu/Pubs/Connect/2007fall/default.html

The outstanding leadership award (n.d.). Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders. Retrieved from
http://www.mslbd.org/awards_leadership.htm

http://www.ccbd.net/print.cfm?categoryID=0FE9B314-3048-2906-EAB8AFB4DA3135D9&typ=pdf