

HEDBERG, Marguerite (Zeigel). August 27, 1907–August 27, 2002.

DELTA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE (BS 1928), UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI (MA 1929, PhD 1932).

Marguerite Lenore Zeigel was born in Kirksville, Missouri, the second of four children of Elizabeth (Neef) (1879–1975) and William Henry Zeigel (1875–1947), natives of Missouri who married in 1900. Her father received a bachelor's degree in 1900 from Missouri Valley College and a master's degree in 1904 from the University of Missouri. From 1917 to 1925 he was a teacher, dean, and head of the mathematics department at the State Teachers College in Kirksville, Missouri. In 1924 her father earned a PhD from George Peabody College for Teachers; the following year he became dean and head of the Department of Education at Delta State Teachers College (now Delta State University) in Cleveland, Mississippi, where he remained until 1946. Marguerite Zeigel's siblings were William (1904–2006), Elizabeth (1910–2003), and Howard (b. ca. 1920). Her sister, Elizabeth Zeigel Winter, was a professor and supervisor of student teachers at Delta State Teachers College.

Marguerite Zeigel received her elementary and secondary education in Kirksville, Missouri. She then attended Delta State Teachers College from 1925 until she received her bachelor's degree in education in 1928, the first year bachelor's degrees were awarded there. At Delta State she was a member of the college debating team and at graduation was ranked first in her class. The next three years she was a student at the University of Missouri. She was a Gregory scholar 1928–29 and received her master's degree in 1929. She was a Gregory fellow 1929–31.

Zeigel returned to Delta State as an assistant professor of mathematics and physics for the year 1931–32. She received her PhD from Missouri in 1932 after completing her dissertation in geometry with a minor in physics. She then took a position as assistant professor at a women's college, Lander College (now the coeducational Lander University), in Greenwood, South Carolina. The following year she was promoted to professor.

On August 7, 1936, at the end of her fourth year at Lander, Zeigel married Ernest Albert Hedberg (1903–1961). Ernest A. Hedberg was born in Huntington, Missouri, to Swedish parents. His father was a farmer and his mother a housewife. He received his BS from Northeast Missouri State Teachers College in 1928 and studied at Stanford University in 1928. He was a graduate student in mathematics at the University of Missouri during 1929–30, Marguerite Zeigel's second year there. He was an instructor at Wentworth Military Academy 1930–32 and received his PhD from Missouri in 1935. He was a professor at Alabama State Teachers College in Livingston 1935–36.

The year following their marriage, 1936–37, Ernest Hedberg was professor at Lander, and Marguerite Z. Hedberg was not on the faculty. The following year he was professor and acting head of the department at the University of South Dakota. In 1938 Ernest and Marguerite Hedberg were both hired at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. On her 1982 Smithsonian questionnaire Marguerite Hedberg described herself as a teacher in 1938–40 and Ernest Hedberg as an associate professor 1938–42.

During 1942–43 Marguerite Hedberg returned again to Delta State, this time as professor and acting head of the department. That year Ernest Hedberg was an instructor of mathematics, physics, and meteorology at the US Navy Preflight

School on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens. During 1943–44 Marguerite Hedberg was an assistant professor at the University of Georgia while her husband was teaching in a US Army Specialized Training Program. In 1944 she worked as a civilian for the US Office of Scientific Research and Development while he was a technical writer in California for a National Defense Research Committee (NDRC) Project. Ernest Hedberg then served as an associate professor of electrical communications in the radar school at MIT 1944–46.

In 1946, after the war, they both were hired by the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Marguerite Hedberg was an adjunct professor 1946–49 and in 1949 became an associate professor; she retired as associate professor emeritus in 1976. Ernest Hedberg became a professor in 1950; he died in 1961.

Marguerite Hedberg was a member of the education honorary society, Pi Lambda Theta. She was a Presbyterian and in 1982 reported her hobbies as reading and listening to good music.

Hedberg was living in Columbia, South Carolina, at the time of her death in 2002 on her ninety-fifth birthday. She was survived by two brothers, a sister, and several nephews and nieces and was buried in Greenlawn Memorial Park in Columbia. After her death, Hedberg's estate left \$1,000,000 for the establishment of the Wyman Loren Williams and Ernest Albert and Marguerite Zeigel Hedberg Chair of Mathematics at the University of South Carolina. Williams was the former head of the department who recruited the Hedbergs to the university.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, Sigma Xi, Sigma Delta Epsilon, Pi Mu Epsilon.

Dissertation:

1932 [Zeigel, M. L.] Some invariant properties of a two-dimensional surface in hyperspace. PhD dissertation, University of Missouri, directed by Louis Ingold. Typescript. Printed, 1933, by Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, MI.

Publication:

1928 [Zeigel, M.] A problem in projective geometry. *Math. News Lett.* 3 (2): 4–5.

Abstract:

1930 [Zeigel, M.] Principal directions for two dimensional surfaces in hyperspace. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 36:806–07 #426. Presented to a meeting of the AMS, Columbia, MO, 28–29 Nov 1930.

References to: AmMSc 8, 9P–11P; AmMWSc 12P–13P, 14–22; WhoAmW 8.

“Hedberg Exemplifies Tradition of Excellence.” *Delta State Alumni News*, Spring 2002.

“Dr. Marguerite Hedberg.” (Obituary) *Columbia (SC) State*, 28 Aug 2002.

“USC Receives \$1 Million to Establish Mathematics Chair.” *USC Times News & Headlines*, Apr 2003.

“Marguerite Zeigel Hedberg Establishes Endowed Chair in Mathematics.” *Carolina's Future*, Spring 2003.

Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1932; Smithsonian questionnaire 1982; Zeigel-Winter Collection, Delta State University Archives (Dr. William H. Zeigel); US Census 1910, 1920, MO, 1930 MS; SSDI.