

In Memoriam: Theresa Jarnagin Enos (1935–2016)

Tracy Ann Morse

I know. We all do it. We can't read Theresa's name without hearing or doing the *th* sound at the beginning of it. All of us who had the privilege of being her students or working with her have our own stories of the first time Theresa corrected our pronunciation of her name. I was a lucky one. Before I ever met Theresa face-to-face or spoke to her, I had a message from Theresa on my answering machine that clearly recorded her Texas drawl, "Hi, Tracy, this is THEResa Enos" as a way of introduction. I played that message back several times to be sure I was hearing her correctly. When I first met Theresa face-to-face as a first-year PhD student in the Rhetoric, Composition, and Teaching of English (RCTE) program at the University of Arizona, I erred on the side of caution and called her "Dr. Enos." She quickly corrected me and implored that I call her "Theresa with a 'th.'" I know it may be silly to start an in memoriam with this story, but so many of us associate this distinction of her name as one among the many Theresa possessed.

I worked closely with Theresa when I served as assistant editor on *Rhetoric Review*. Theresa and I often sat back to back in her office working together on manuscripts and the production of the journal. Our conversations were often related to the work of the journal: Whose review was I waiting on (she gave me a list of reviewers, many of whom I would have to nag to return reviews in a timely manner)? Had I finished formatting that last article? Had I sent those manuscripts out to the reviewers? Her wealth of knowledge in rhetorical studies surrounded me in that office—literally in the stacks of her own books and others in and on the bookshelves and in our discussions—and I soaked in as much as I could. We would naturally slide into personal chats from time to time. Her sense of humor could be surprising since her professional demeanor was firm and sometimes not flexible. Some of my best memories of Theresa are those moments when she shared with me more about herself. At that time, she loved going out in the

RV on road trips. In fact, she decided to remove herself from my dissertation committee because my defense date was going to conflict with one of her road trips. She was a fan of and sometimes competed in ballroom dancing. She swore me to secrecy when she told me stories about extracurricular events from CCCC long, long ago.

Much of my memories from my time in the RCTE program at the University of Arizona is filled with the communal feeling that can be credited to our then matriarch, Theresa. The RCTE community has a tight bond and extensive family tree. We benefitted from Theresa's leadership of our program and in the field. Theresa had opinions and she had standards. She expected much from the students in RCTE and in her classes, and we were all better for it. Theresa was tough and generous. In the wake of Columbine and 9/11, she pushed for and allowed space for the work of rhetorical studies to be more human and humane. She reinforced the professional development of students in the program. She shared her own notoriety with many of us who published with her or created special projects for *Rhetoric Review*. In her generosity, Theresa showed us ways to give back to our field and give space to effective mentoring.

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