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April 4, 2007

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Carmen Sigler, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
       Office of the Provost

RE: Memorial Services for Inger Sagatun-Edwards

We have received information on memorial services for our colleague and friend Inger Sagatun-Edwards, dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, who died earlier this week. Her family has arranged a service on Monday, April 9, at 4:00 p.m. in Stanford Memorial Church and all are welcome to attend.

We were indeed fortunate to have Inger Sagatun-Edwards among us at San José State. She served with distinction from the time she joined the justice studies faculty in 1975 through her recent tenure as dean of the College of Applied Sciences and the Arts. During her 32-year career here, she was an exemplary faculty member, a nationally recognized researcher and authority in her areas of specialty, and a distinguished administrator. Before her appointment as dean, she served for 12 years as chairperson of the Department of Justice Studies. Her extensive record of service included helping to establish an interdisciplinary forensics program in collaboration with the biology and chemistry departments.

Recipient of a Senior Fulbright Scholarship and named the SJSU President’s Scholar in 2004-05, she established an outstanding record of grant-funded scholarship in the area of family violence and was a published national authority in the fields of child abuse, domestic violence, and juvenile justice. Her work provided the research base for two innovative Juvenile Court programs in Santa Clara County: a specialized drug court for substance-abusing mothers and a specialized domestic violence court for juvenile offenders. Most recently she was involved in research for the National Center for State Courts, comparing the response time of courts and probation departments to juvenile domestic and family violence cases in Santa Clara, San Francisco and Contra Costa counties.
With respect to parental abduction of children, Inger was co-investigator on a series of pioneering studies that identified characteristics of families at risk for abduction, which resulted in the evaluation and development of social policy and preventive interventions. This research had a major impact on the way custody-disputing families are handled in Family Courts, especially in California, where new laws have been enacted to incorporate these recommendations.

A true citizen of the university, Inger served on a wide range of committees and boards, including the Academic Senate, the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee and the SJSU Research Foundation. Beyond the campus, she served as president of the Western Society of Criminology, as a member of the coordinating committee for the Santa Clara County Juvenile and Domestic Violence Court and as a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Child Advocacy and Child Abuse Prevention Commission. She was author of numerous scholarly articles and frequently presented her research findings at seminars and conferences.

In her message on the College of Applied Sciences and Arts web site, Inger spoke of the college’s vision to “serve societal needs through innovative applications of knowledge and to empower graduates to be exemplary members of a diverse and global community.” We could have no better role model and embodiment of this vision than the legacy of Inger Sagatun-Edward’s life and work.

As Inger was a champion of the faculty, her family has set up a fund in her honor at San José State. Those wishing to contribute to the “Dean Inger Sagatun-Edwards Faculty Development Fund” can make checks out to “Tower Foundation of SJSU” and send to:

The Dean Inger Sagatun-Edwards Faculty Development Memorial Fund  
c/o Laura Henderson, Director of Development  
Office of Development and Alumni Relations  
San José State University  
San José, California 95192-0257

Those wishing to contribute online can go to www.sjsu.edu/giving and click on “give to SJSU online.” Type in the name of the fund in the blank for designating the purpose of the gift.