A Celebration of the Life of Almetris Marsh Duren, 1910-2000

A Gift of Love

Upon the occasion of her retirement in August, 1981, Mrs. Almetris Marsh Duren was celebrated by The University of Texas at Austin community as an invaluable lady of energy, commitment, humility, devotion, compassion and integrity. Beginning as housemother for Black women students in off-campus co-op housing in 1956 and continuing from 1968-1980 as a University Student Development Specialist and Resident Fellow in Jones Dorm, she was the guide, the inspiration, the comfort and the challenge for four decades of UT students. “Mama Duren” or “Mama D.” as she was affectionately called, extended her concern and caring to all students as well as to many faculty and staff, and all sought her advice.

In this 1951 photograph, Almetris stands at center surrounded by the women of Almetris Co-Op, the University’s first Black women’s residence. The woman standing directly behind Duren is unknown (see Sold).