"I have you love, hope and the challenge of developing confidence in one another; I have you a thirst for education, respect for the use of power, faith and racial dignity; I have you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men and a responsibility to our young people."

Almetris Duren quoted Mary McLeod Bethune in her letter of resignation advising the University of its obligations to students.

Mrs. Duren helped establish the University’s first minority recruitment program, Project JUICE, and started the Marchwomen of Blackshear Choir. In 1974, she received the Margaret C. Berry Award for outstanding contributions to student life at The University of Texas. UI President Lawrence Garey awarded her the 1974 Presidential Citation for outstanding service. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the Southeast Association of College and University Housing Officials in 1980. Her friends greeted her Texas State Life Membership – No 18726. She was also presented with a key to the City of Austin. To this day, “Maama Duren” is given highest honors and thanks by the generations of students to whom she served as mentor and friend.

Almetris Duren assembled a sizable archive documenting the problems and issues faced by Black students at UT from 1956-1960, crucial decades of change. This is available to students, faculty, staff, and the general public for research at the UT Center for American History located in SEH 2nd Floor.

Mrs. Duren was a co-founder of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Texas and served as its first director from 1977 to 1978. She received the Distinguished Service Award from the Women’s Caucus of the American Association of University Women in 1982. She was also presented with a key to the City of Austin. To this day, “Maama Duren” is given highest honors and thanks by the generations of students to whom she served as mentor and friend.

Mrs. Duren’s book, published in 1972, relates events in the fight for civil rights and the opening of barriers to Blacks in admissions, housing, and athletics.