

# Rachel Hartshorn Colwell



Rachel H. Colwell was born in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1903, she received a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Denison University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and in 1905 a Master of Arts degree from the Columbia University Teachers College. She was head of the Domestic Science unit at Michigan State University from 1905-1906, was head of the Household Science Department at Lake Erie College, 1908-1910, and moved to West Virginia University in 1910.

Miss Colwell developed the Domestic Science curriculum for the West Virginia University School of Agriculture and Domestic Science created by the Board of Regents on October 26, 1910. Consequently, she is rightfully credited with being the founder of home economics in West Virginia. In 1917, she guided the changing of the name Domestic Science to Home Economics and established a graduate program in Home Economics during the 1929-1930 academic years.

Miss Colwell was a woman of integrity and fairness, as well as a woman of vision in an era when women were not yet fully accepted as leaders in higher education. Forty two former students, 50 years after her retirement and becoming Professor Emeritus, agreed that her courage, dedication, leadership, and guidance abilities made her the great teacher and administrator and signed off on her nomination for the Hall of Fame.

Miss Colwell belonged to many State, regional, and national professional organizations and was always in great demand for speaking engagements.

The high esteem in which her students and colleagues held her is perhaps best exemplified by the establishment at West Virginia University in 1945 of the Rachel Hartshorn Colwell Scholarship Fund by the alumni of Phi Upsilon Omicron.