

1999

Sharon K. Houseknecht

Sharon K. Houseknecht graduated from the Hughesville High School in 1963. She received the B.A. degree in 1972 from Bloomsburg University and the M.A. degree in 1974 and the Ph.D. degree in 1977 from The Pennsylvania State University. Since receiving the Ph.D., she has been on the faculty in the Department of Sociology at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

*Professor Houseknecht's specialization is family sociology. She has numerous publications on family-related topics, including a co-edited book, entitled *Family, Religion and Social Change in Diverse Societies* published by Oxford University Press, and twenty-six research articles, five chapters, and seven book critiques in professional journals. She also has presented papers and lectures throughout the United States and in numerous foreign countries, including Austria, Canada, Egypt, Lithuania, Mexico and Spain.*

There are additional indicators of her career achievements:

- ☞ She has been the recipient of several research/teaching awards and has filled a number of editorial positions for national, scholarly journals.*
- ☞ She has held numerous elected offices in national professional organizations, including Chairperson of the American Sociological Association's Family Section and Chairperson of the Family Action Section of the National Council on Family Relations.*
- ☞ For six years, 1991 through 1995, she spent portions of each year in the position of Visiting Senior Research Scientist at the Social Research Center, American University in Cairo, Egypt.*
- ☞ She has been interviewed by numerous national media sources regarding her research, including an appearance on NBC's Today Show.*

☞ *From 1982 to 1989, she served as Chairperson of the Undergraduate Program in the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University.*

PERSONAL NOTE:

It is a great honor for me to have been selected to be part of the Hughesville High School Hall of Fame. I would like to encourage all students to persist in their quest to achieve goals no matter what obstacles seem to block the way. In my own case, I was a foster child for the first six years of my life. And in high school, because my dream of a college education seemed to be out of the question, I studied business courses in order to prepare myself for what I thought could be another interesting career path. After high school, I pursued my goal to obtain a college degree by taking one course at a time while working full-time as a secretary. It took me nine years and course work at five universities/colleges to earn the B.A. degree. Later, when I was working on my Ph.D. degree, someone told me, "Persistence is half the battle." These words had great meaning for me, and I hope that they will help to bolster others as well.