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## Georgia Law Review

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Volume 46 | Number 3

Article 2

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2012

### REMEMBRANCE

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#### Recommended Citation

Eaton, Thomas A. (2012) "REMEMBRANCE," *Georgia Law Review*: Vol. 46: No. 3, Article 2.

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## REMEMBRANCE\*

I was most fortunate to have known Anne Dupre in a variety of settings. I first met Anne when she was a 1L student in my Torts class. We remained in touch during her two clerkships and a stint with a Washington, D.C. law firm. When Anne decided to become a law professor, I helped recruit her to our faculty. We both taught first year courses, often in the same section. Anne became one of my closest friends and colleagues. As I reflect on our relationship that covers many decades one theme sticks out: Anne took things seriously. She walked the walk. Whether it was her studies, work in the courts and the law firm, classroom teaching, scholarship, friendships, or golf, Anne took it all seriously. I do not mean to suggest that she lacked humor or joy. On the contrary, Anne saw the humor in things more sharply and experienced the joy of life more keenly because she cared so deeply. She took nothing for granted.

Anne was the student every professor hopes to have. She was attentive, prepared, and inquisitive. She was the student who came to you at the end of class to follow up with a question or two—not in the perfunctory way of an annoying gunner, but because she had thought about the materials carefully (as we instruct our students to do) and remained uncertain or doubtful despite my best Socratic efforts to clarify. Anne posed difficult questions for which I often did not have an answer. Her questions made me think. This was not a game of “gotcha,” but a sincere effort on her part to make better sense of the murky world we call law.

Anne approached her work as a law clerk and as a lawyer with a certain reverence. She understood that she had been called upon to do serious work that mattered. Anne applied the discipline and work ethic she developed as a student (I suspect she had those traits before then) to the tasks at hand. She appreciated the fact

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\* In the Fall 2011 Issue, the *Georgia Law Review* dedicated Volume 46 to the memory of Professor Anne Proffitt Dupre, a beloved alumna and faculty member who left a lasting imprint on the *Review* by serving as its Editor in Chief and later as its faculty advisor. This Remembrance is the third in a series of four tributes to Professor Dupre set to appear in each of the four issues of Volume 46.

that it was a privilege to assist a judge or justice to craft an opinion. She also knew it was an equal privilege to be entrusted with a client's most serious matters. Anne labored to master the skills of a practicing lawyer. There were no shortcuts to producing high quality work.

When Anne decided to become a law professor, she was in great demand. I was serving on the faculty recruitment committee and knew Anne had offers from many good schools. One of the happiest moments I had as a committee member was when Anne called to tell me she "was coming home."

It did not take long for Anne to make her mark both as a teacher and a scholar. A generation of contracts students can testify to the initial fear she instilled in them the first few weeks of class. God help the student who came to Professor Dupre's class unprepared. Over time, her students came to recognize that this fear was a carefully orchestrated effort to instill in them a dedication to the seriousness of their task. Anne's message was unmistakable: law was serious business and so too was the study of law. With more time and reflection, her students understood that the demands Anne placed upon them were grounded in a loving desire that they each succeed; that they each develop the habits and commitment to do their very best; that they each reach their fullest potential. Anne did not demand from her students any more than she demanded from herself. If students were expected to be fully prepared, so too was their teacher. Anne not only talked the talk of serious preparation, she walked the walk.

Anne demanded as much from her scholarship as she did from everything else. Not content to blindly accept the status quo, Anne's scholarship challenged the conventional wisdom. Was *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District* really good for children and their education? Or had *Tinker* unleashed a bevy of unintended complications that compromised both the process and outcome of public education? Anne tackled these questions with unflinching honesty and the perspective of a former public school teacher. Her re-examination of *Tinker* spilled over into other facets of education law, culminating with her critically acclaimed book *Speaking Up: The Unintended Costs of Free Speech in Public Schools*.

I would be remiss if I did not share a glimpse into Anne Dupre outside her professional world. She was passionate about sports. Anne was as well-versed in batting averages, yards per carry, and free throw percentages as any ESPN commentator. She could dissect every Bulldog victory or loss with unvarnished and informed objectivity. When she danced, she danced with abandon and unadulterated glee. Anne introduced me to the game of golf. It is a game well-suited to her personality—highly demanding and requiring much practice and individual integrity. There are few golfers who have not improved their lie when the ball found its way into a divot or nestled up against a tree. Not Anne. She played it as it lay. That was the way Anne went through life. After all, life as Anne lived it was serious business.

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