

Unique in her devotion to the students, Almetris Duren is also unique in providing the one continuous link in the history of black integration at The University of Texas. Mama Duren, as she is known to black and white students alike, is more than a little lady with a big heart. She is a lady with boundless energy, with a knowledge of how to get things done on campus and in the community and with the wisdom to know who to ask if she doesn't know the answers herself. Recognizing early the black students' needs for more than an opportunity to attend classes, she turned the first co-op into a place for students to meet, to hold social functions, to come for companionship and encouragement. Never a militant, she was nonetheless instrumental in encouraging black students to work for their rights, in helping bring about the integration of campus housing and athletics and of off campus theaters and restaurants and other facilities.