

**ALFRED STATE COLLEGE CENTENNIAL**

**Name: Grace E. Barton**

**Department: Director, Center for Developmental Studies  
Educational Opportunity Program**

**Dates Employed: 1972-1986**

**Memories:**

I was first employed by Rosemary Lanshe, Director, Reading Center. My office and classroom was one of the reading labs. They were located on the lower floor of the Library and were without windows so one never knew whether it was sunny, cloudy, rainy or snowing outside. One day, Vince Trotta, Vice President for Student Affairs stopped by to visit me. He asked if I had any complaints. My only complaint was the lack of a window in the reading lab. A few days later I arrived at work to find a huge poster on the wall which had been placed there by Vice President Trotta. The poster depicted a huge window thru which could be seen blue sky and fluffy clouds but a huge jet heading straight through the window. The poster remained in place for years and never failed to amuse both students and staff.

In 1977 the Reading Center was placed under Vice President Robert Granger and became the Center for Developmental Studies. I was Director of the Center until I retired at the end of 1986. I also was Director of the Educational Opportunity Program for students economically and educationally disadvantaged. Each Fall we brought in approximately 100 students. They spent one year in developmental courses and one course in the curriculum of their choice. Successful completion of the first year allowed them to continue toward the associate degree of choice.

I also wrote the ASOP (Alfred State Opportunity Program) for students educationally disadvantaged but not economically disadvantaged. I told Admissions I would take approximately 30 students but at the end of the day I found the Admissions had accepted approximately 100 students. There were a few anxious days trying to cope with that many students but with an excellent staff we succeeded. A few years ago I learned that program was still in place.

I wrote many grants which provided the support needed for the Center to thrive. One grant, of considerable note, was an entire computer lab which was placed in the Agricultural Building. The necessary programs to enhance student learning were not available so with the assistance of the Computer Center we developed our own software.

**I also wrote and received a \$100,000 grant for a Kurzweil Reading Machine. The machine was for blind students and students with reading handicaps. A book or a test could be placed on the machine and it read the material aloud. The voice had a distinctive Swedish accent which always made us laugh. The machine was a forerunner of some features that later became available on computers.**

**The Center for Developmental Studies became an integral part of student life on campus by continually expanding our services. We provided services for students with learning disabilities (also made possible by grants), expanded our tutoring services and developed study courses for Nursing, Business and Engineering. None of this would have been possible without an outstanding and dedicated staff, Mark Miller, Kay Fosegan, Trudi Schwert, Virginia Putnam, Dorothy Argentieri, Midge Sanders and Beth Turner. You will always be remembered.**