



## HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Wichita State University began in 1895 as Fairmount College when the Congregational Church opened the doors to 16 students and 3 faculty members. In 1926, the City of Wichita assumed the financial support of the college and renamed it the University of Wichita. It became the first municipal university west of the Mississippi River. In 1964, the University of Wichita became one of the six state-supported universities in Kansas and was renamed Wichita State University. The 330-acre campus is now the educational home for 14,000 students and 1,031 faculty members. The programs span 180 areas of interest in six degree-granting colleges. In addition, the Graduate School offers a program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Communicative Disorders and Sciences along with nine other doctoral programs.

In the spring of 1934, Dr. William Jardine became president of the University and on June 1, 1934, Martin Palmer, the founder of the present program in Communicative Disorders and Sciences, had his first appointment with the new president. On June 4, 1934, Palmer was informed that he and his ideas had been accepted and that the University was offering a contract for nine months at a salary of \$1,600.00. It was agreed upon and in September of 1934 the program began.

Martin and his wife Mary worked cooperatively to create a sound financial base for the developing program. The first substantial contribution was used to establish the Flo Brown Memorial Speech Laboratory in one small room on the fourth floor of Jardine Hall on the WSU campus. This room served as office, classroom, research laboratory, and speech clinic.

The new program began modestly with 12 students but by the fall of 1936, Palmer had a staff of seven people. The fourth-floor facilities presented problems to the handicapped but a spirit of cooperation prevailed and football players, R.O.T.C. members, and even cab drivers carried children to and from the fourth floor for their lessons.

to change the name of the department to the Department of Logopedics and from that point until his death in 1965, Palmer was both the Chairman of the Department of Logopedics and the Director of the Institute of Logopedics.

The early understandings between President William Jardine and Martin Palmer provided that Palmer was to ask little of the University and that he was expected to raise funds for programs he wished to initiate. Even the hiring of new faculty required only a notification sent to the Dean of the College that the individual was to be appointed to the faculty and that the Institute would provide the salary. During this period, the Institute and the University's programs became fiscally and physically inseparable.

Graduate degrees were possible, but students had to meet the requirements of other established degree-granting programs in addition to the requirements in speech science. Within a relatively short time, the speech science major had been approved and the first Master of Arts Degree in speech science was granted in 1944. The need for larger facilities was clear and plans were initiated to develop an independent Institute of Logopedics to be housed in its own buildings. A \$2 million loan through the Federal Housing Authority was possible because the plans were viewed as a housing development with the main building constituting the business section. The Department of Logopedics and the Institute of Logopedics moved to the new facilities at 2400 Jardine Drive on September 19, 1949.

Mary and Martin Palmer continued to believe in the triad of education, service, and research. Palmer aspired to a program that could offer a do



