Chapter 2
All about Paul Moore

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George Paul Moore—or Paul Moore as he preferred to be called—was born in Everson, West Virginia, USA on November 2, 1907. He grew up in that area, attending West Virginia University where he received his AB degree (1929). He celebrated this achievement by marrying Gertrude Conley; they had two children: Anne G. (1937) and Paul D. (1942). He then moved to Illinois and matriculated for graduate work at Northwestern University (NU). He received his MA degree in 1930 and earned the PhD in 1936. Northwestern had the good sense to hire him immediately after his master’s was completed and he served on the faculty at this University until 1962, when he left Northwestern to assume the Chairmanship of the Speech Department at the University of Florida. During the 32 years at NU, he also served as Director of the Voice Research Laboratory (1940-1962), Director of the Voice Clinic (1950-1962); he also was Lecturer in Otolaryngology, NU Medical School (1953-1962), and participated on many University committees, boards, working groups, and task forces (often as chair).

He did take a break from NU during World War II (1944-1945) when he served as Senior Research Scientist at the U.S. Army Air Force’s Communication Laboratory. Another notable leadership position he held was that of Director, Gould Research Laboratory (1957-1962). During the post-war period, he was visiting faculty at the University of Colorado (Summers of 1948, 1951, and 1967). Later on, he served as Visiting Faculty at the University of Minnesota (1967) and the University of Witwatersrand, The Union of South Africa (1971).
Immediately upon his arrival at UF as Professor and Chair of the Speech Department, he began program upgrades. Most notably, he reorganized the faculty into four divisions: Rhetoric and Public Address, Speech Pathology and Audiology, Theater, and Communication Sciences—each headed by a program director who served as a member of his (departmental) Council. He also structured and organized a Communication Sciences Laboratory, serving until 1968 as its Founding Director. Yet another of his successes was that he immediately established a faculty committee to upgrade the graduate program and provide better facilities for the MA and PhD candidates. One result here was that a rather substantial number of them, who had been suffering from a variety of impediments, were assisted in overcoming them and were able to graduate. Indeed, Paul Moore himself mentored several of them.

Paul Moore left his mark on the UF where his skills as an administrator and negotiator became apparent very early. Hence, his contributions were many. He served on a large number of committees and boards, including the University Senate, the Board of Directors, Division of Sponsored Research, and for the Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences. A good example of his leadership was when he led a group that convinced the UF administration that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) should not be hampered by not having a Linguistics Department. He then convinced a number of CLAS department heads, who had legitimate misgivings, they would actually benefit from that addition. Subsequently, he established a relevant council and appointed a working committee to actually structure the program. He obtained approval of that committee’s report (at all levels) and—after review by the Regents—the Linguistics Program became a reality. Those of you who are associated with Academia will realize just how challenging a task of this magnitude can and will be.

There is little question that Paul Moore was a master clinician and had deep insight into the operation, disease, and misuse of the larynx and voice. He studied a number of voice and vocal fold disorders and developed remedial procedures and therapies to mitigate them. Over time, these efforts lead to the “Moore Approach” (first published in 1982). His efforts in both the clinic and laboratory led to nearly a third of his publications—i.e., over 30 scientific and educational articles as well as hundreds of lectures, presentations, and demonstrations. His book “Organic Voice Disorders” (1971, Prentice-Hall) proved to be a main-stay in most speech and voice clinics; it was followed by over a dozen chapters in other relevant books.

It is possible that the impact of Paul Moore’s research simply overshadowed most of his other (administrative, service, clinical) contributions. His work during the 1930’s on vocal fold stroboscopy and ultra-high speed laryngeal photography was ground breaking. It certainly rivaled that of Bell Telephone Laboratory’s Farnsworth. Paul may not have had the backing of such a powerful organization as Bell Telephone, but he did have an almost unique understanding of the larynx, vocal folds and what they might be able to do. Hence, his research publications between 1936 and 1939—culminating in his 1938 film “The Human Larynx” (showing the vocal folds during phonation)—changed the landscape of voice research.

After the war, Paul Moore continued his research with his 1954 film, “Mechanics of Voice Communication,” demonstrating just how important ultra-high speed motion pictures are to the understanding of vocal fold operation. Subsequently, his association with Hans von Leden allowed him to shift his basic focus from the teaching/clinical areas to research. It was a happy partnership with their 1956 and 1958 films winning a number of international awards. The Moore-Von Leden film on normal phonation won the Mignerva, which was the top award at the Scientific Film Festival (Turin) and the Silver Robot at the Specialized Cinematography Congress (Rome). In turn, the von Leden-Moore film on stress in voice won Gold at the Italian Film Festival and second at the Biological Film
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Association’s Festival. He and von Leden continued their working association and during that period, published a series of articles—plus a half dozen scientific films—describing laryngological disorders.

The level of their association—but not their friendship—was reduced when Paul Moore moved to UF. There he continued to conduct research as well as mentor younger scientists (such as the undersigned), promote and lead research programs, and publish. His commitment to research was impressive. He once said that he “almost didn’t care what he was researching, just so long as he could carry out experiments.” A final point here. In collaboration with Hans von Leden, he revolutionized the understanding of the larynx’s cricoarytenoid joint and its significance to vocal fold activity during phonation. They presented a series of scientific exhibits in these (and related) areas. These exhibits were well received. Indeed, collectively, they won over a dozen national awards.

It would not be fair to Paul if his fine service in other domains was not recognized. As would be expected, he was a member—and leader—of a number of professional associations. He was president of the First International Voice Conference (Chicago, 1957). He also served in many capacities—including president—of the Chicago Speech Therapy and Audiology Society and the Central States Speech Association. On the national stage he was most active in the American Speech and Hearing Association, serving as its president in 1961; he later (1977) also served as president of the American Speech and Hearing Foundation. He was a member of a number of other learned societies and contributed to them also. Paul Moore’s service also included editorial work. He was associate editor of the Quarterly Journal of Speech, Speech Monographs, The Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders, and Editor-in-Chief of the Language Master. He contributed in other ways also; for example, he served on the editorial boards of Archives of Otolaryngology and Folia Phoniatrica.

It did not take long for Paul Moore’s professional efforts to attract attention. While he felt it reward enough just to be allowed to “do his thing,” other people disagreed. They clearly felt his contributions were worthy of recognition and commendation. A brief summary follows. He was elected Fellow of the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) in 1954 and received the ASHA’s Honors of the Association in 1966. In 1962 he received the Merit Award from the American Academy of Otolaryngology and that same year, the Gould Award for Excellence in Research from the William and Harriett Gould Foundation. Then came the Barraquer Memorial Award from Smith, Miller and Patch (1969) and the Golden Anniversary Award for Scholarship (1969) from the Speech Communication Association. There were others.

Perhaps the most rewarding recognition he received was presented to him in 1974. It was that of Doctor of Science, Honorus Causa, from the University of West Virginia.

The awards did not stop coming when he joined the University of Florida faculty. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Florida Blue Key (1976), the Teacher-Scholar Award from UF (1976) and the Honors of the Association (1977) from the Florida Language, Speech and Hearing Association. These were followed by an invitation (1979) from the American Broncho-Esophogological Association to deliver their Chevalier Jackson Memorial Lecture. And speaking of programs, the Florida chapter of the Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association has named their annual Spring Symposium in his honor and the Voice Foundation sponsors the G. Paul Moore Lecture at their Annual Symposium. Not to be outdone, the University of Florida named Paul Moore Distinguished Service Professor in 1977 (Emeritus in 1980).

Paul Moore was with us for a little over a century (1907-2008) and what a century that was. He led in the establishment of the legitimacy of laryngeal and voice research; pioneered research techniques and knowledge in those areas. He also had a profound effect on those of us who were his students and colleagues. Besides being a model
scientist, teacher, and clinician, he was simply an outstanding human being.

To learn more about Paul Moore, the reader is invited to visit the following link to the Northwestern University Library Archival and Manuscript Collection http://findingaids.library.northwestern.edu/catalog/inu-ead-nua-archon-1347. There the reader will find a Guide to the (George) Paul Moore (1907-2008) papers and more information on the life, career and achievements of Paul.