

Memorial Resolution-Margaret Gwen Kimble

Margaret G. Kimble, a tenured instructor of Chemistry at IPFW, passed away on November 8, 2023. Marge was destined to be a chemistry teacher from an early age as her grandfather, a high school chemistry teacher, would sit and talk with her for hours about chemistry and science. Being inspired by these talks, she was determined to pass that inspiration on to others.

Marge obtained a Bachelor of Science degree as a Chemistry major from Purdue West Lafayette in 1973 and did graduate work at the University of Virginia, Quantico. She then served as both an instructor of chemistry and of mathematics while developing the Chemistry Resource Room at Purdue West Lafayette. She furthermore taught at Saint Francis College and ITT Technical Institute before starting as an IPFW Chemistry Instructor in 1990, receiving tenure in 2005 and retiring in 2011.

Marge was instrumental in the development of the Chemistry course ‘Living Chemistry’, required for nursing majors. For her work on this class and also for her use of technology in the classroom, she was awarded the ‘Enhancement of Learning’ Award from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2003. In the Living Chemistry course, students were fascinated by and benefitted from the way she was able to weave her previous experiences as the Allen County Deputy Coroner, Crime Lab Director for the Fort Wayne Police Department, Exxon Research Chemist, and Lutheran College of Health Professions instructor into the classroom.

Marge was routinely entrusted by the Chemistry Department to teach large-enrolling classes, typically teaching over 300 students each semester. Student classroom evaluations applaud her organizational skills, sense of humor, incredible patience, and use of technology; for examples, students wrote:

“I have a B.S. degree. I have done all the course work for my M.A. —I have taken lots of courses and I think this instructor is one of the best I have had—very organized, knowledgeable, positive attitude and assigns appropriate labs and course work to aid in understanding material!! Very good instructor and great course—thought I’d never enjoy chemistry—surprise, surprise.”

“I could name countless other moments that Mrs. Kimble has been a friend, a cheerleader, a huge resource person, a great teacher, and an even better role model as a human being, I can only hope that through my daily life I can give back just a smidgen of what Mrs. Kimble gives daily to her students.” and

“My brain hurts thinking about all that she knows.”

Marge also was the faculty advisor for the Chemistry Club and served as chairperson of the Academic Computing and Information Technology Advisory Subcommittee. She contributed professionally as an author of student study guides and Interactive Learning Ware that accompanied several chemistry textbooks.

Marge is survived by her devoted husband Edward, loving children Jennifer and John, and her grandchildren Jamie, Alex and Sarah.

Please join me in a moment of silence before this body, for which she also served as a Faculty Senator for multiple years.