

Joan Daley Uebelhoer, an associate faculty member/limited term lecturer in Women's Studies at IPFW, was a mainstay of the program for 30 years. She, along with several other community activists, was a member of a committee organized by Prof. Cathryn Adamsky (Psychology) in the early 1970s to build support for women's studies as an academic offering. Joan taught or co-taught several of the first interdisciplinary courses offered at IPFW, including Women in American Culture and Philosophy and Sexism in Education; she served on the committee that developed the proposal for a minor in Women's studies (which was approved in 1976); and she taught one or two sections of Introduction to Women's Studies (required for the minor and, later, the major) each semester for many, many years. In addition, she developed the topic Global Feminisms for W300, a course approved in the General Education component as well as required for minors, majors, and certificate students in Women's Studies.

Students were very responsive to her teaching, which was based on active learning principles that combined academic and experiential learning years before such teaching practices became codified as the foundation of student-centered learning. In addition to teaching, Joan remained active on the Women's Studies Committee as a participant in the program's semester reviews of teaching and curriculum, helped plan and organize co-curricular events, and contributed to the proposals for a Women's Studies major and Certificate. Of course, all of the teaching and committee participation at IPFW were, until she retired, in her "free time" beyond the obligations of her non-university positions – an impressive list that ranges from elementary and high school teacher to Allen County auditor to

Director of Finances at Public Transportation Company to Director of Allen County Department of Welfare and Director of Planned Parenthood, among others. She also helped found Daybreak Children's Center, the Center for Nonviolence, and the Fort Wayne Hedge School.

The commitment, energy, and hard work of community activists, especially Joan, enabled the IPFW Women's Studies Program to balance academic rigor with activism on behalf of women. This is why the program created the Joan Daley Uebelhoer award, given annually to a student with high academic achievement and a demonstrated commitment to activism. The awardee normally receives a book to represent academics and a bullhorn representing activism, but in the spring semester of 2012, Community Friends of Women's Studies wanted to honor Joan Uebelhoer and the significance of this award by adding a cash award as well.

Recognized regionally and nationally as a tireless activist for women's rights. Joan was included in the National Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2010 she was one of ten women given the Torchbearer Award from the Indiana Commission on Women for "her continuous work to ensure that women had a voice when their rights and equality were jeopardized."

Today it is fitting to honor Joan Daley Uebelhoer for her contributions to the two elements of academic excellence and activism which characterize the IPFW Women's Studies Program and to her lasting impact on the students she taught.

Submitted by Jeanette Clausen and Linda Fox