

**In Memoriam**

**Maxine M. Ormiston Huffman**

**May 11, 1920 – June 5, 2013**

Maxine Ormiston Huffman was born in Fort Wayne. She graduated from South Side High School and, in 1941, married Vernon J. Huffman. Maxine and Vernon had three daughters: Diane, Cynthia, and Susan.

Before starting on her college degree at age 38, Maxine worked for Allison Engines and Fort Wayne Tailoring. She earned a Bachelors Degree in Education from St. Francis College in 1962, and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from St. Francis in 1966. In 1971, Maxine earned a Ph.D. in Education at Ball State University.

In the Fall of 1968, Maxine joined the faculty of what was then the Department of Education at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. For the next 28 years she taught courses in reading and literacy development to preservice and inservice teachers. During Maxine's career at IPFW, she helped more than 8,000 beginning and experienced teachers learn to teach young children how to read. Maxine developed the Summer Reading Clinic at IPFW and served as its Administrator for many years. When she retired in 1989, Dr. Huffman was an Associate Professor of Education and had also served as Director of Student Teaching and Supervisor of Field Experience.

Dr. Huffman was a licensed Reading Specialist and served as Administrator of both the IPFW and the St. Francis reading clinics. Maxine's passion for teaching children to read motivated her post-retirement work with the Allen County Education Fund. She developed a curriculum that facilitated children's learning to read by linking the efforts of parents with their children's teacher. These efforts led to Maxine's creation of the Parent Literacy Enrichment branch of Project READS. "As a teacher myself," Maxine once said, "I know the optimal learning environment for children is created when teachers and parents are working together. Therefore, we have an obligation to educate the parents."

In 1989, the IPFW School of Education recognized Dr. Maxine Huffman's contributions to Reading Education with a plaque, which may be viewed in the Neff 250 Education hallway.