

**In Memoriam**

**Beverly A. Hume**

**July 17, 2014**

Beverly A. Hume, 63, professor emeritus of English, passed away on July 17, 2014.

A member of the IPFW Department of English and Linguistics since 1988, Beverly was a devoted professor and colleague, whose impact on her students and her colleagues was immeasurable. Beverly completed her undergraduate degrees from Shasta College (A.A.) and California State University, Sacramento (B.A.) before obtaining her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis in 1983. Leaving her native California, Beverly moved to Atlanta, where she was a visiting professor at Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. She resettled in Fort Wayne in 1988, where she made her mark as a teacher and scholar of American literature at IPFW. Her ethical disposition and her passion for teaching remain the hallmarks of her tenure at IPFW. Renowned for her critical work on Herman Melville, Edith Wharton, Mark Twain, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Beverly acquired a reputation as a scholar whose critical acumen allowed her to extract from her close readings of literature the historical, social, and intellectual surroundings of their authors. Reprinted often, Beverly and her scholarship had an impact in classrooms around the country.

Beverly was promoted to full professor in 2011 after establishing her role as a prominent scholar of American literature. Despite the success of her scholarship, or perhaps because of it, Beverly chose to devote her energies to her students and to the classroom. Many of her students later were admitted to graduate programs at some of the most prestigious universities in the country, and they remained in contact with her because of her role in contributing to their success. As one her students commented following her passing, “Now we know there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.” Her encouragement of her students, as well as her dedication to the enriching power of literature to transform and effect social change, drew students to her classes to experience her generosity of spirit, her often ironic wit, and her trenchant understanding of the major figures of the American canon. In her honor following her retirement, the department established an award for students to celebrate their success as scholars of American literature. Beverly’s spirit and her contributions to IPFW will endure.

Beverly is survived by her husband Craig Thorne and her sister Diana.