

In Memoriam
Helen E. Gibbons
June 29, 1929 – February 26, 2017

Dr. Helen Elizabeth Gibbons, aged 87, Associate Professor Emerita of Business Administration and Education at IPFW and Indiana University, passed away in Bloomington, Indiana on February 26, 2017 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. Born June 28, 1929 in New Castle, Pennsylvania, Helen was a daughter of John and Gertrude Gibbons.

Helen earned a B.S. in Business from Villa Maria College in 1951, and a Masters of Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1954. In 1960, Helen earned her Doctorate of Education from Indiana University. She started her career at IPFW in July 1972 and, in November 1972, proposed the Business Education program and the Master of Science in Business Education. Helen was greatly disappointed when the IU Bloomington campus failed to approve IPFW's proposed Business Education degrees. In April 1973, IU Bloomington appointed her Interim Certification Officer on the IPFW campus. Dr. Gibbons taught Introduction to Teaching and Business, Secondary Schools Curriculum, and Business Communication at IPFW, and was actively involved in campus governance. For example, during the 1980-81 academic year, Helen chaired the Honors Program, served on the Senate, the Economic Education Advisory Committee, the Chancellor's Cabinet, and the Educational Policies Subcommittee. Between her hire in 1972 and her retirement, Helen also served on the Joint Library Committee, University Council delegate, Committee on University Administration, Faculty Board of Review, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Bulletin Committee, Professional Practices Programs Committee, Division of Education Waiver Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Senate Agenda Committee, Nominating Committee, and the Administrative Structure Task Force. Dr. Gibbons left the IPFW Division of Education in 1981 and joined the IPFW Division of Business. She was a lifetime member of the Indiana University Alumni Association, the IU Foundation President's Circle, the IU 1820 Society, and the Women in Philanthropy Women's Colloquium Steering Committee.

The *IPFW Alumni* magazine featured Dr. Helen Gibbons in their June 2005 Faculty Flashback column. Helen said her favorite hobby was volunteering, especially for Habitat for Humanity, WonderLab Girls Inc., Bloomington Hospital's Community Health Access Program, the St. Paul Catholic Center where she was a founding member, and the Monroe County Public Library's weekly book sale. "If I could tell my former students one thing," she said, it would be "Get your education! Women need to be able to provide for themselves and their families. Broaden your horizons!"

In 1980, IPFW Chancellor Joseph Guisti appointed Dr. Gibbons Chairperson of the Joint Commencement Committee. After her retirement, Helen told a reporter for the *IPFW Alumni* magazine that her favorite IPFW memory was “successful ceremonies.”

IPFW Professor Emerita of Audiology & Speech Sciences Dr. Pauline Flynn recalls Dr. Helen Gibbons as someone who appreciated her colleagues and enjoyed spending both social and working hours with them. She also gave freely of her off-campus time to community organizations and projects in Fort Wayne and Bloomington. Dr. Flynn remembers during campus vacations Dr. Gibbons frequently enjoyed driving Route 80 to visit her hometown in Pennsylvania. In a recent email, Dr. Flynn wrote:

Dr. Helen Gibbons was a seriously professional woman on all accounts. She approached her teaching assignments with interest and expertise and cared deeply about the success of her students. Many students benefited from her mentorship and generous scholarships [and] gifts.... She was a committed, caring, laugh-out-loud person who enjoyed good conversation, good books and especially truly unusual travel experiences.... She actively served her church in varied and important roles [and] thanked God for her many blessings.

Dr. Gibbons retired in 1990 after teaching and serving the IU and IPFW campuses for 30 years. Her parents, her aunt “Honey” Mary Elizabeth Mitchell, and her sister Mary preceded her in death. Dr. Gibbons is survived by three nieces, a great-niece, a great-nephew, friends and caregivers.

Submitted by M. Gail Hickey