

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Marjorie E. Person

September 14, 1918 - March 9, 1998

Marjorie E. Perry Person, associate professor emerita of business administration, was born in Mound City, Missouri, in 1918, although an error in the year on the birth certificate by her grandfather, who was the attending physician, caused most official documents to show 1917. Professor Person earned the B.S.Ed. in English and Business at Northwest Missouri State College and the M.B.A. at Indiana University. In 1965 she became one of the first women to earn a doctorate in Business from Indiana University.

An IPFW faculty member from her 1965 arrival as chair of the Department of Marketing until her retirement in 1981, she was noted for her leadership in the teaching of marketing, her contributions to the university's research and service missions, and her many years of generosity to the university. Among her honors were selection as the Alpha Delta Kappa Outstanding Educator and membership in the Beta Gamma Sigma and Delta Pi Epsilon scholastic honorary societies. The Class of 1970 honored her with its Distinguished Teaching Award, and the IU Fort Wayne Alumni Association awarded her its highest honor, the Broyles Medal, in 1989. She was listed in 1979 and 1980 in *Who's Who* in the Midwest.

Marge was known for her love of music and travel, her snappy fashion sense, and a contagious sense of fun and humor. Her interest in students went well beyond the classroom. She believed teaching was a two-way street--her students learned from her and she learned from them. She actively procured scholarships, internships, and employment opportunities for students. She maintained contact with many students years after they graduated from IPFW, keeping informed about their families and careers.

Her son Bill tells the story of how, when his mother first started teaching in the 1950's, she soon discovered that she was earning only two-thirds of what her male colleagues were earning. Without delay, Professor Person voiced her objections to the university president, who responded that the men were being paid more because they were heads of households and responsible for the support of their families. She responded that as a widow she, too, was head of a household and the sole support of a child. After thinking a few moments, the president called out to his secretary, "For payroll purposes, Marge is a man." Throughout her career Marge continued to serve as a mentor for women in male-dominated professions.

Professor Person was active as a business consultant and served the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce through participation in Fort Wayne Future, the Economic and Industrial Development Subcommittee, and the Research Committee of Economic and Industrial Development. Maintaining active membership in the American Association of University Professors, she was a recognized faculty leader frequently selected to serve on personnel and search committees. Her publications, focused on the role of Fort Wayne as a distribution center, appeared in *Business Horizons*, *Indiana Business Review*, and elsewhere, and she was a co-editor of *The Challenge of Change: Marketing Readings*, published by Simon and Schuster in 1974.

Throughout the years following her retirement, Marge continued her close affiliation with IPFW. She worked at the annual Business Conference, participated in numerous alumni events, and met regularly with campus officials to make sure her philanthropic efforts were benefiting as many students as possible. She was a member of the Chancellor=s Society and the President's Council. Her gifts provided scholarships to students in business, chemistry, journalism, music, and other disciplines; she supported the Helmke Library endowment, Royal Dons, 25th Anniversary Fund, Aquarius Park Fund, Ralph Broyles Endowment Fund, O. F. Kenworthy Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Minority Scholarship Fund.

In 1990 Professor Person memorialized her brother by establishing an endowment for the William D. Perry, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund at IPFW. The endowment provides merit scholarships for students in the School of Health Sciences and public-health programs in the Division of Public and Environmental Affairs. Professor Person=s name will be added to this memorial scholarship fund in the near future.

Marge often expressed love and admiration for her son Bill and two grandsons Eric and Tom. Whenever they visited from the West Coast, she proudly took them to see her university and to meet her friends and colleagues. She will be remembered as a vibrant and caring woman by her family, her companion Ken Disler, her colleagues at IPFW, and her friends in the community.