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Professor Chapman Retires After 31 Years at IWU

Kunaey Garg

This year the Illinois Wesleyan Economics department loses one of its most valued members. Professor Margaret Chapman has been an inspiration to all of her students and colleagues and will be missed as she retires from the economics department. She has been with IWU for 31 years now and, for her, it seems like just yesterday that she set foot into IWU, with the small two member department that she has seen grow to what it is now.

She received her Bachelors in Economics from Bradley University and Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Champaign. She has taught a variety of classes here, ranging from the introductory course in economics to upper level courses such as Money and Banking and History of Economic Thought. For her, the most enjoyable class that she taught was History of Economic Thought, which she liked because it gave her students the big picture by providing them with different ways of thinking that they could not get elsewhere. She did not let her age get the best of her, claiming that it was the students that she has been teaching that kept her young.

Her favorite memories of IWU include things like advising research students, who provide her with satisfaction when their research grows from something crude to a refined and intelligible project. She has also enjoyed watching the economics department grow from what it was 31 years ago to what it is now, and is happy that the major program offered is distinguished and respectable in the US.

Once she retires, she plans to expand her dog agility training business, catch up on overdue maintenance of her house, and build a library of the history and culture of non-European countries. We wish her the best in life and in her endeavors in the future. Professor Chapman, I feel I speak for all the students who have been taught by you when I say that it has been an honor and a pleasure. Dr. Chapman, you and your tremendous devotion to the economics department will be missed.