



5-2014

Honoring the Life of Emerita Margaret Chapman

Nikki Castle '15

Illinois Wesleyan University, dcastle@iwu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace>

Recommended Citation

Castle, Nikki '15 (2014) "Honoring the Life of Emerita Margaret Chapman," *The Park Place Economist*: Vol. 22

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/parkplace/vol22/iss1/6>

This News and Commentary is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Honoring the Life of Emerita Margaret Chapman

Honoring the Life of Emerita Professor Margaret Chapman

By Nikki Castle

Last fall semester, the Illinois Wesleyan University community suffered the loss of Margaret Chapman, Emerita Professor of Economics. Dr. Chapman passed away on the 18th of September, 2013, leaving behind two sons: Ben and Terry Chapman ('97 and '01 respectively). She began her 31 year career at IWU in 1977, co-authored a book on the impact of Japanese automobile firms in the United States, and retired from the University in 2008. During her time at IWU, she taught a wide range of Economics courses and served as the Department Chair for several years. However, her instrumental role in developing the department was even more indicative of her commitment to IWU than the academic positions she held.

Dr. Chapman entered a two-member department and helped to create a stable and reputable Economics program with limited resources. She taught and designed a wide variety of courses in the field, ranging from Microeconomics courses like Industrial Organization to Macroeconomics courses such as Money and Banking. She also created Senior Project, and her favorite class to teach was History of Economic Thought. Dr. Chapman's aim was to create a program which suited a variety of student interests, drew parallels to current events, and was relevant to Bloomington-Normal through her community research on the automobile industry. She challenged herself to expand the program well beyond her initial areas of expertise as a means to help create a sustainable academic program at IWU.

As a true animal lover, Dr. Chapman used her free time in retirement to become more involved in the Town and Country Kennel Club of Bloomington. She was also an avid reader, and continued to educate herself on topics that had held her interest, such as South Asian and Middle Eastern history. In true Illinois Wesleyan spirit, she pursued her passions throughout her life and strove for knowledge and wisdom even after retiring from the University.

Dr. Chapman not only approached the development of IWU's Economics program with enthusiasm, but was known to be a compassionate member of the campus community. Many alumni remember her as an inspiration, crediting her for guiding them to declare majors in Economics. In a letter addressed to her upon her retirement, Ray Coleman '86 wrote that her greatest gift to students was that she would always make them feel special. In his Keynote Commencement Address of 2013, Juan Salgado '91 praised her mentoring and encouragement to further his academic career by attending graduate school. She was a role model for both students and coworkers in many ways. Most importantly, she strove to provide her students with an example of an accomplished woman in a traditionally male-dominated field. Current Department Chair and Associate Professor of Economics Ilaria Ossella-Durbal remembers Dr. Chapman as a great mentor, colleague, and close personal friend, remarking that Dr. Chapman's advice was indispensable to both her personal and professional growth.

In order to commemorate her achievements, the department is working toward endowing The Professor Margaret Chapman Memorial Scholarship, which is to be awarded to an exemplary senior economics student receiving financial assistance beginning in the fall of 2017. Dr. Margaret Chapman will always be remembered as an invaluable part of the Economics department, the University, and the greater Bloomington-Normal community.