



Roberta Wong Bouverat

September 11, 1937 - October 24, 2013

Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Roberta Wong Bouverat (Associate Professor Emeritus) passed away peacefully after a long illness on October 24, 2013 at the age of 76. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on September 11, 1937 and with her family moved to the Seattle area as a young child. She grew up in Oak Harbor, graduated from Oak Harbor High School where she was valedictorian (1955) and received both her BA (1959) and Masters degree (1962) in Education at Western Washington University. Following several years of teaching young children in the Edmonds School District, the Skagit Valley, and the children of dependents in Germany, she received a Professional Diploma from Columbia University in 1968 and her PhD. in Early Childhood Education at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio in 1970. Roberta taught at Woodring College of Education at Western Washington University's Department of Curriculum and Instruction for 20 years. After retirement from Western, she served as a Practicum Advisor for doctoral students in Education at Nova Southwestern University for 10 years.

During her tenure at Western, Dr. Bouverat promoted the growth and establishment of undergraduate and graduate programs of Early Childhood Education to assist teachers of young children. She was primarily responsible for helping to establish the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education major

within Westerns College of Education. She wrote, reviewed and critiqued dozens of professional articles, books and textbooks on the subject of Early Childhood Education. She traveled with educators and she helped lead students on three tours to China studying curriculum and educational programs for young children. She also traveled extensively assessing programs for young children in the United States and abroad. She was respected by her students for her knowledge, energy, positive outlook and for her many contributions to the field of education. She leaves an enduring legacy as she touched the lives of young children through students, teachers, and parents.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward C. and Helen E. Bouverat and an older brother Robert Bouverat. She is survived by her brother, Edward Bouverat of Atlanta, Georgia.

Donations Information

If you would like to honor her life and its many contributions to the education of young children, an endowment is being created. If you wish to contribute to this fund, gifts can be made to the Western Washington University (or WWU) Foundation, in her name. Send gift to 516 High St. Bellingham, WA or see link below.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Dear Sweet Professor Bobbie, Thank you for touching my life. You will remain in my thoughts.

Beth Marsau - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I am sorry to see Dr Bouverat “Bobbie” ‘s obituary. She was a dear lady. I met her in 1975 when I first moved to Bellingham and took an independent study course with her as an advisor. She was a positive influence in my life and one whom I will always treasure. The last time I saw Bobbie was at Boulevard Park on the boardwalk. We happened to meet each other and we paused to visit and I took a photo of us together. I won't ever forget this dear lady.

Beth Marsau - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ So very sorry to read of Bobbies passing. I've known Bobbie more as a neighbor and a friend. My family and I lived down the road on Chuckanut Drive and met her through Dr. Geri Doll whom was a close friend of Bobbie's. Over the years I did yard work, home repairs, kept an eye on her house during her travels, and sometimes dropped her off up at Western when we got hit with a winter snow. I also got to know Dr. Skeen (a close friend) through Bobbie. The last I saw Bobbie was at Haggen's in Fairhaven. It was great to see her and we had a good chat. She told me she of her illness but seemed very upbeat. In recent years my family had met up with her on the boardwalk at Blvd. Park below the Riptide where her mother and Dr. Skeen were residing. I feel very blessed to have met her and to have her as a friend I will never forget her. If any of her friends would like to meet for coffee and chat, please feel free to contact me. I would also be interested in attending any memorial that might be planned in the future

Brian Martin - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM