



A TRIBUTE TO

Eileen McMahon



Mercy College suffered a great loss with the passing of Associate Professor Emerita Eileen McMahon on November 8, 2021. McMahon was a true Mercy original, having attended Mercy when it was a Junior College, before transferring to Marymount College for her A.B. degree and going on to earn an M.A. at St. John's University.

A Bronx, New York native, McMahon was a founding member of Mercy College and Associate Professor of English from 1962 until her retirement in 2007. Instilled with a love of educating others, she continued to teach as an adjunct faculty member, and a tutor and counselor in the Center for Academic Excellence and Innovation until 2016.

Colleagues in the Tutoring Center recalled McMahon as a gifted mentor, a forthright advocate for fairness and the less privileged, and a great pleasure to work along with. Colleagues in the English Literature program recalled McMahon as an individual of integrity, with a great love for students and Mercy.

Professor Sean Dugan, a longtime colleague in the English Literature program, remembered her with affection, "As one of the first faculty members of the English Department, Eileen's love of literature, writing and teaching have left a legacy of excellence for those who follow. She was a great friend to all, Mercy, her community, her family and the arts."

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In addition to shaping the teaching of English at Mercy, McMahon coached the College's inaugural sports team—the women's basketball team—in 1963. In the 1964-65 season, Mercy finished with a 7-1 record, under a new coach but with sage words of wisdom from McMahon.

In the 1980s, McMahon ignited a long-lost love for the stage, studying acting at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin and playing in a series of local theater productions, including *Night of the Iguana*, *Trip to Bountiful*, and *Lost in Yonkers*. A *New York Times* article featured McMahon's foray into suburban community theater, and at the age of 63 she was praised for her starring role as Miss Helen in *Road to Mecca* at Nyack's Elmwood Playhouse.

Together with McMahon's sister, Terri McMahon '66, and her friends and family, the Mercy College Community mourns this profound loss.

To make a gift in McMahon's memory to Mercy College, please visit:

www.mercy.edu/eileenmcmahon