

Bunt, Marilyn

Marilyn M. Bunt, R.N., Ph.D., 64, Dean Emeritus of the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Lewis University and a professor of nursing, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2002, after a courageous fight against cancer. Marilyn Marie Brade was born in 1937 to Blanche and Otto Brade of Kinde. She was the third of five wonderful children. Marilyn grew up in Kinde. She went to grade school in Kinde and graduated as the valedictorian of the North Huron Rural Agricultural High School in 1955. She then continued on to earn her diploma in nursing from Saginaw General Hospital School of Nursing in 1958. Upon her graduation from nursing school, she was awarded the Frank Anderson Scholarship and the Aleda Lutz Award. During her years at Saginaw General Hospital she worked as a registered nurse and met James W. Miller of Saginaw while he was rotating there as a medical student. She married him in 1959 and they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, so that Jim could finish medical school. While in Cincinnati, Marilyn worked as a registered nurse, assistant head nurse and head nurse in obstetrics and oncology at Cincinnati General Hospital. She also earned a certificate in cancer nursing from Ohio State University. In 1961, Marilyn and Jim moved to Detroit so that Jim could do his internship at Detroit Receiving Hospital. While in Detroit, Marilyn worked as a registered nurse at Sinai Hospital of Detroit. In December 1961, Cheryl Elaine Miller was born unto Marilyn and James Miller. In 1962, the Millers moved to Tohatchi, N.M., so that James could work as a physician on the Navajo Indian Reservation. In November 1962, the Millers and another family were in a terrible motor vehicle accident in Arizona where James was killed and Marilyn and Cheryl were hospitalized for two months. At that time, Marilyn recited the 23rd Psalm over and over to give her strength and help in dealing with this terrible tragedy. After the accident, Marilyn and Cheryl moved back to Kinde to live with Blanche and Otto Brade. During that time, Marilyn decided that she wanted to return to college and pursue further education in nursing and chemistry through the Honors College at Michigan State University. While Marilyn was at MSU, she met Don D. Bunt, who was her college algebra teacher. After the term was over, Don and Marilyn started dating, fell in love and got married in 1964. In 1965, Donald Ronald Bunt II was born unto Marilyn and Don Bunt. Also in 1966, Marilyn and Don D. Bunt adopted Cheryl Elaine Miller. Then in 1967, the Bunt family moved to Frostburg, Md., so that Don could teach at Frostburg State University. At that time Marilyn was very involved in the League for Women Voters. Noel Kristina Bunt was born to Marilyn and Don Bunt in 1968. Marilyn, Don and the children again moved to Country Club Hills, Ill., in 1968 so that Don could pursue a position as an assistant professor in the department of mathematics at Chicago State University. While living in Country Club Hills, Marilyn worked as a registered nurse at Oak Forest Hospital (1969-1971) and as an instructor at Chicago State University for the College of Nursing and the department of psychology (1971-1976). She also continued her education and received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in guidance and counseling at Chicago State University in 1971 and 1972, respectively. In addition, Marilyn worked as a counseling intern at Governors' State University in 1972. Due to her continued love of nursing and psychology, Marilyn completed a master's degree in nursing in 1977 from Rush University and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Chicago in 1978, where she had earlier received a full ride scholarship from the University of Chicago. In 1978, Loyola University, Chicago, employed Dr. Bunt as an assistant professor in mental health nursing. The Bunt family moved to Orland Park, Ill., in 1979 and Marilyn M. Bunt, R.N., Ph.D. continued working for Loyola University as an associate professor and chairperson in Community and Mental Health Nursing until 1987. She also received a certificate from Loyola University Medical Center in sexual dysfunction therapy in 1979. Dr. Marilyn Bunt came to Lewis University in 1987 as professor and Dean of the College of Nursing. Under her leadership, the College experienced significant progress in academic quality, program diversification, curricular development, image enhancement, mission congruence and increase in the number of sites in which Lewis nursing programs were offered. She helped establish degree completion and master of science in nursing (MSN) programs for registered nurses. The

university bestowed the title of Dean Emeritus for the College of Nursing upon her resignation after a successful and very effective 11-year tenure. She continued as a faculty member following her term as dean. She also received further education through an Executive Development series offered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and a certificate in educational administration from Harvard University in 1994. She also published many articles on mental health-psychiatric nursing and behavior-critical thinking in college students. Marilyn M. Bunt, R.N., Ph.D., was also active in volunteer work in the fields of health care and education. For more than 10 years, she served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Loyola University, Chicago, and the Loyola University Medical Center Foster McGraw Hospital Operating Board. She chaired the Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital Committee of the Loyola University Health System Board of Trustees for four years. In addition, she served for three years as a member of the Review panel for Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs for the National League for Nursing (NLN) and for 20 years as a site visitor for the NLN. She was also inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International, an honor society for nurses, in 1976, and the Delta Epsilon Sigma, national Catholic honorary society, in 1989. Due to the many accomplishments of Marilyn M. Bunt, R.N., Ph.D., in contributing to the mission of Lewis University and serving as a role model as a values-based educator, the Midwest District of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, sponsors of Lewis University, will present a Lasallian Award. This award will recognize the distinguished service career of Dr. Bunt. Marilyn Marie Bunt was a wonderful daughter, sister, niece, granddaughter, wife, daughter-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, nurse, educator, administrator, mentor, colleague and friend to many people. She was a loving, kind, compassionate, generous, charismatic, persistent, intelligent and courageous individual. Marilyn was a bright star who always gave more than she received. She was an extremely religious individual and accepted each individual with an unconditional type of love. Marilyn thought education, strong family values and religion were very important. She loved to play the piano, sing, dance, play cards, cook, read, learn, sew, put puzzles together, travel and spend time with her husband, family and friends. Marilyn taught people to dig deep within their souls and be the best that they could be. It was with her guidance, leadership and example that this world is a better place. Marilyn has lit stars for numerous people, which will continue to shine brightly for many, many years to come. She was the beloved wife of Don D. Bunt, Ed.D. and the late James W. Miller, M.D., who was killed in an automobile accident in 1962. She was the loving mother of Cheryl Doane, D.O. and her husband, Thom, Don R. Bunt II and his wife, Doreen, and Noel Anderson and her husband, Dave. She was the dear grandmother of David and Brian Doane, Caitlin, Colleen and Eileen Bunt, and Andrew and Jacob Anderson; the devoted daughter of Blanche and the late Otto Brade; a fond sister of Virginia Strucinski and her husband, Walter, Donald Brade and his wife, Martha, Joyce Koglin and her husband, Marvin, and Judith Nolen and her husband, Kenneth. She also was a dear aunt of many nieces and nephews. A memorial service to celebrate her life took place on Monday, March 4, 2002, at All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park, Ill.