



Pamela Kay Werner Freeman

September 12, 1948 - December 27, 2020

Pamela Kay Werner Freeman, 72

Pamela Kay Werner Freeman died peacefully in her sleep on December 27, 2020. She was born on September 12, 1948, in Jeffersonville, IN and grew up in Charlestown, IN. She was a graduate of Charlestown High School and received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Purdue University in 1970 and 1971, respectively. She earned her doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee/Knoxville in 1983.

Pam retired from IU in 2011 as Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Ethics and Anti-Harassment Programs. In her long and productive career she also served as a high school teacher in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Ellettsville, IN; Administrative Assistant at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville; Assistant to the Dean of Students and Coordinator of the Student Advocates Office at IU, becoming Assistant Dean in 1988 and finally Associate Dean in 2001. Despite her demanding position, she also served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the IU School of Education. She was known for being a quick study and an energetic multitasker as well as a patient, thoughtful, caring leader. She was also known for accomplishing prodigious amounts of work and for working many long hours in order to do so.

Nevertheless, Pam found more than enough time to be a loving and dedicated wife to her husband of 47 years, Douglas Freeman, as well as mother to their two children - Ross Freeman and Lynn Freeman Keller, whose own accomplishments reflect the life lessons they learned from their mother. Her top priority was her children, and she frequently went with minimal amounts of sleep in order to support their activities and simply to serve as their mom. She attended hundreds of their sporting events, piano recitals, and school activities over the years as they were growing up, and she encouraged in them her love of travel. We suspect that she may be the only Associate Dean at IU ever to wade in the Arctic Ocean with her children!

Pam's professional achievements are also prodigious and include publications, research reports, presentations, workshops, and consultancies at numerous colleges and universities around the country. She was the co-editor of two monographs (with Shane Windmeyer), and a "selected" list of her presentations and workshops is three pages long. The esteem in which she was held by her professional colleagues and friends is attested to by an outpouring of grief from people all over the country in reaction to her passing.

Pam was a multi-faceted individual. She faithfully visited the Monroe County YMCA with friends (at 5:30 a.m!) for over 30 years in order to exercise and stay in excellent physical condition. She was legendary in the kitchen and prepared homemade meals for her family almost every day. She could whip up fresh beignets or a cherry pie in no time, and she was the only member of her family who could expertly bake their traditional Aunt Maude's White Cake each year for Christmas. She was an accomplished seamstress who sewed both her own wedding dress and her daughter's prom dress. She participated in dozens of triathlons and races, including even a triathlon in Indianapolis less than a month after being diagnosed with ALS in 2018, where she finished second in her age group among women (although full disclosure compels us to reveal that there were only two women in her age group!)

Pam was an avid supporter of the arts, and she regularly attended area plays, concerts, and festivals. She also was a pianist and organist who served as a full-time and substitute organist in numerous churches in West Lafayette, Ft. Lauderdale, Knoxville, and Bloomington for over half a century. She played as an accompanist for local nursing homes, for special events at Bloomington Hospital, for many weddings and funerals, for IU Madrigal Dinners, for the Quarryland Men's Chorus, and for Bloomington's Grateful Divas. One of her "retirement" activities was to serve as organist for St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Bloomington until her illness rendered this impossible.

Pam also supported her community in many ways. For example, she served on the board of Middle Way House, and in retirement she served on the Monroe County Sheriff's Merit Board as long as she was able.

Pam was incredibly humble and downplayed her many accomplishments and honors. A complete list of her awards would be too long to include here, but perhaps most noteworthy are the following: IU's Bicentennial Medal, 2019; IU's Ward G. Biddle Visionary Award, 2011; Woman of Distinction Award presented by the Girl Scouts of Tulip Trace Council, 2007; IU's Kate Hevner Mueller Outstanding Mentor Award, 2006; IU's Gayle and Bill Cook Mentoring Award, 2009; IU's GLBT Spirit Award, 2002; IU's Mentor of the Year, 2000; IU's Latino Service Award, 1995; IU's Commission on Personal Safety Award for "Outstanding Contributions Toward Personal Safety," 1994; IU's Commission on Multicultural Understanding Award in Honor of "Outstanding Contributions Toward Multicultural Appreciation and Understanding," 1993; IU's Student Alumni Council Student Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty, 1988; Chancellor's Citation for "Extraordinary Professional Promise," University of Tennessee, 1980; and "Woman of Achievement" award, University of Tennessee, 1980. Pam would be the first to say that perhaps her

most important honor is the fact that so many of her students and interns have gone on to great success at numerous universities throughout the country.

Pam is survived by her husband, Douglas Freeman, her children - Ross Freeman (Nicole Freeman) and Lynn Freeman Keller (Shawn Keller), her grandchildren - Addison Freeman, Zoë Freeman, and Maxwell Keller, her sisters - Sharon Herndon (William Herndon) and Ann McAlexander (Michael McAlexander), and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. Her greatest joy in recent years was spending time with her three grandchildren, who always brought a smile to her face.

There is no funeral service scheduled at this time. The family intends to have a celebration of life at a safe time in the future. Memorial contributions in Pam's honor may be made to the ALS Association or to the Quarryland Men's Chorus.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Tribute Wall

GC

“ Pam was a wonderful role model to all of us who are lucky to be friends of Lynn! Sending so much love to the family and gratitude for the blessing of knowing her❤️

ginny chappell - April 24, 2021 at 04:29 PM

CH

“ On behalf of Sharon Elaine Werner Herndon: "Being the oldest of the sisters, I am now among the few living persons who had known Pam since the time of her birth. I loved her from the start. Throughout her life, she was always there to support me through every crisis. We shared so much, especially our passion for music. Almost every day spent together included time playing piano duets. I'm thankful to have had her in my life, and I am thankful she is no longer suffering, but there is now 'an empty spot' in my heart. I now sob whenever I hear Debussy's 'Petite Suite'. I will always miss her." ~Sharon



Christopher Herndon - January 21, 2021 at 06:21 PM

LE

“ Doug, Lynn, Ross and family...I could write a novel about the impact your mother had on me and so many of the people I know. I know I've written this to her personally before but I always said that Pam was "who I wanted to be when I grew up." This is still true. When I first met her at a "Take Back the Night Rally", I remember telling my colleague that I was so excited because Pam was my "professional crush". :) When the job at Student Ethics opened up, I surprised myself by being interested because conduct was not something that was in my plans. I knew in my gut that I should go for it because of how life-changing it would be to be mentored by Pam and Bill. Over those years, she went from being my "professional crush" to my mentor and trusted friend that I love dearly. My heart is broken that she did not have more time on this Earth but boy did she spend what time she did have well. May we all take those lessons from her and live our lives with the intention, passion, generosity, and humility that Pam demonstrated. Of all of the things I admired about Pam, her commitment and love for her family was most admirable. The light in her eyes when she shared stories about all of you with me was heartwarming. Sending you all love and light as you celebrate the life of your amazing wife and mother/grandmother.

Laura A Guthrie Eads - January 07, 2021 at 11:57 AM

LL

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Pam's passing. Many of us knew it was going to happen but it still feels that she left us too soon. I feel lucky to have heard her play in church and to have performed with her in Quarryland.

Luiz Fernando Lopes - January 06, 2021 at 07:59 PM

SW

“ Doug, Lynn and Ross,

I send you my condolences. Pam, your Wife/Mom, made such a huge positive difference in my life. She taught me so many important lessons and inspires me all the time. She was such a pure joy to be around - and was so smart, driven and caring. I will miss her dearly.

Having lost my Mom on December 22, the sorrow I feel is insurmountable for both Pam and my Mom. I can only hope (and find solace) that they are both together in a place where they can watch over all of us. Pam meant so very much to me - she cared deeply for me and made sure I knew it all the time.

On behalf of Tommy and me, we send all our love and look forward to being with you when we can share, love, and hug - AND remember the life of Pam.

xo Much love always... Shane Windmeyer & Tommy Feldman

Shane Windmeyer - January 06, 2021 at 01:24 PM

WS

“ Doug and Family,

I was so sorry to read of Pam's passing. Having also lost a spouse to ALS, I think I can identify with the journey the two of you experienced over the past few years. Pam was always an inspiration to me and I was taken by her kindness, compassion and concern for others. She was a model of the consummate professional who served as a mentor for so many students and professional colleagues.

Please accept my best wishes to you and your family as you continue your journey without her.

Winston Shindell

winston shindell - January 06, 2021 at 10:23 AM

RE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rebecca - January 04, 2021 at 05:33 PM

DF

“ Dear Doug, Lynn, and Ross,
We have so many loving memories of Pam, it is hard to single out any of them, but we will always remember Pam on the boat, floating in the warm summer water, and always, always, providing food! She was so smart, adventurous, and gracious! Meeting for lunch at Nick's! Almost half a century of memories for Dirk and decades for Leah.

Our hearts go out to you. As Dickens writes in "A Christmas Carol," life is full of meetings and partings, but the partings are so painful.

Love,
Dirk and Leah

Dirk Fraser - January 04, 2021 at 04:14 PM

DR

“ Hello Doug, Lynn and Ross,
I remember each of you and Pam from the years when I taught you piano through IU program. Lynn must have had some of those lessons at the house, and I recall Doug's old VW bus pulling up to drive her home.
Pam was so supportive of your lessons, progress and recitals. I knew of her post at IU—such a admirable one—but not all the other things she did in life besides her family's day to day needs.
Know of my prayers as you transition and grieve. My husband died two months ago, so I also have a changed life. God is with us in all things, and I pray God's comfort be your daily companion.
Blessings, Diane Rivera

Diane Rivera - January 02, 2021 at 03:16 PM

AM

“ This is one of my favorite photos of my Aunt Pam, playing pianos with her sister Sharon. This was taken 8 years ago at Christmas.



Aaron McAlexander - January 01, 2021 at 08:19 PM

DO

“ Doug, Ross, and Lynn - as you know, I adored your wife/mother!!! She welcomed me to DSA, guided me through complicated university rules and traditions, and befriended me and my daughter/grandchildren, always inviting them to the annual party at her house. She could whip up some goodies now! Even after she retired and I went to DC to work, we would get together for coffee when I was home and catch up. She was, without fail, a friend and colleague full of caring, compassion, and humility, never taking credit but always giving it. I cannot imagine your heartache; give a yell anytime I can help. That is what Pam would say and do! Much love to all - please stay safe. Love to you all!!!! Dee Owens

Dee Owens - December 31, 2020 at 01:21 PM

PE

“ For many, many Wednesday afternoons (before my retirement) I served as a member of IU's Racial Incidents Team, of which Pamela Freeman was the co-chair. Clearly, she was both very capable and very caring. I admired her greatly. For some months now I'd known that she had ALS, and I looked in the H.-T.'s obituary notices day after day--and this morning I found the long and beautiful notice about her.

Paul Eisenberg - December 31, 2020 at 11:55 AM

Shawn
Keller

“ I loved competing in triathlons with Pam, Lynn, and Ross. Notice how they all got prizes for placing highly in their respective groups and I walked home with nothing yet again lol...



Shawn Keller - December 30, 2020 at 07:30 PM

KD

“ I was so incredibly sad to read this news. Pam was a driving force behind so much good in this world...in Bloomington...at IU ...for so many. I count myself as very lucky to have known her through the years. She was a remarkable person and the world is a better place because she was in it. My sincere wishes for the family and friends to be filled with peace and feel all the love that comes forth for Pam. She was a true treasure.

Kim Davis - December 30, 2020 at 04:38 PM

WK

“ Pam and I worked together for several years on alcohol cases at IU. We, by nature of our work, would often have different perspectives on a case, so we were not always in agreement as to what should happen. I absolutely loved working with her. She was dedicated, firm and compassionate. her devotion to the students and the department was unsurpassed. At first, i was reserved as i was new and not always easy to disagree with. she was unfailingly warm and kind to me throughout. i ended up considering her a friend. i also had the pleasure of working with her daughter Lynn and loved that too. my heart goes out to you and yours Lynn and I hope you know how much i thought of you and your mom. if i can do anything i would be honored. be safe and be at peace.

walter keller - December 30, 2020 at 03:39 PM



Thank you for the kind words, Walt! I can assure you that she felt the same way about you (as do I).

Lynn Keller - December 31, 2020 at 01:18 PM



“ I only knew Pam through two of her many activities: her service as accompanist for Quarryland Chorus and St. Mark's Methodist choir. But in them her vibrant personality and quiet devotion showed through dramatically. She was a cherished friend, who always was upbeat and seldom discouraged, even as illness --seemingly so undeserved-- sapped her strength and vitality. As a musician, she was tops; as a Christian person, seldom matched. May she rest in God's peace.

Timothy Jessen - December 30, 2020 at 04:27 AM

BS

Pam was a close friend, colleague and confidant for a few decades. Seldom did a weekday go by when we didn't have a meeting, conversation or an exchange of emails. When she decided to retire, I knew I needed to do the same. She is the wisest and most genuine person I have ever known. The strength she demonstrated during her illness was remarkable. I will miss her dearly. My heart goes out to Doug, Ross and Lynn. We will all keep Pam in our hearts.

Bill Shipton - December 31, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ *I loved running into Pam around Bloomington and at the Y. She was such a kindred spirit.*

Kasia Mastalera - December 29, 2020 at 10:16 PM

GG

“ *Pam was an elegant, wise, and powerful woman. Her positive impact on my life cannot be quantified. Thank you, Pam. Requiescat in pace.*

Gabe Grabarek - December 29, 2020 at 09:58 PM

MW

“ *Every time we had a sleep-over Pam always came in with a bag.....usually Chef' Boy Ar D pizza,,,,the best memory was when she put a rinse in my hair on a Saturday night....my hair grabbed the color and was an awful green !!!.....and would not wash out.....needless to say I missed church ! Will miss her at our reunions, but, so glad she was in my life !*

Margaret E Wynn - December 29, 2020 at 06:57 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael McAlexander - December 29, 2020 at 05:06 PM

AM

A trip to San Diego with my lovely sisters to visit our beautiful niece. I will miss my sister terribly. ❤️

Ann McAlexander - December 30, 2020 at 10:12 AM



I love this picture so much!

Lynn Keller - December 30, 2020 at 01:08 PM

FS

Although I didn't know Pam well, I was always in awe of her poise and calm nature. My oldest daughter, Katy and Lynn played basketball at BHSS. Pam's most emphatic "remark" during a South basketball game would be an eye roll to a bad call. We also enjoyed the annual Christmas Cookie Party many times hosted by Sallie and Francie Hill. Sending our condolences to to the family. Pam had a remarkable career, but most of all she was a wonderful mother!

Frances Stewart - December 30, 2020 at 08:52 PM

ME

I had the pleasure of working in conjunction with Pam at the university. She was undoubtedly the kindest, most competent and humble person I ever interacted with. While her legacy will live on, her presence will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend.

Margie Eberle-Polley - January 04, 2021 at 12:31 PM