

Peggy was my friend from the time I came to the Department in 1991. I want to tell you about something that was very important to her, and that was the opportunity the Department gave her in 1979 to work here.

Peggy had been a stay-at-home Mom, and she found herself in need of a job so she could support her three young sons. She told me that when she came for the interview, all she wanted was to be given the chance to show that she could do the work.

Professor Blackburn, as Acting Chair, was the one who hired her in 1979. Professor Kelly, Chairman at the time, concurred with that decision on his return. And I think it was Professor Wallace who re-hired Peggy after she tried her fortune BRIEFLY at a company in Research Triangle Park and found that unsatisfying.

We all know that Peggy gave more than 100% to the Department, and she had much to give. But when she talked about it, she described the opportunity to work here as a wonderful gift to her, for which she was ever grateful. The fact that Peggy brought this up so many times in our conversations over the years let me know just how much that meant to her.

And I'm very thankful to those who recognized the gem that Peggy was and hired her, so that all of us had the opportunity of knowing her. ~ Gail McKinnis