

- VIRGINIA BRODIN WRIGHT '67 '69 -

VIRGINIA (GINGER) BRODIN WRIGHT grew up in Lewiston, Idaho and graduated from Lewiston High School in 1959. After that, she attended Lewis Clark Normal School where she received a two-year teaching degree in 1961 and began her teaching career in Libby, Montana.

During the summer, she would travel from Libby to Moscow, Idaho where she took summer courses towards her bachelor's degree. After teaching fourth grade at Chenoweth Elementary School in The Dalles, Oregon, Wright returned to the University of Idaho full time to finish her Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1967 and her Master of Education degree in 1969.

Wright's teaching career spanned nearly four decades until her retirement in 2001. She influenced and taught students in Libby, Montana; The Dalles, Oregon; Moscow and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and Spokane Valley, Washington. Throughout her tenure as an educator Wright embraced new educational methods and consistently sought to provide her students with the best learning experience.

At Otis Orchards Elementary, Wright and other teachers implemented a "multi-age" program involving students in first to fifth grade. Older students tutored younger students in reading and writing. All participants did art class together. The older students were taught valuable responsibility through the program and the younger students had students to look up to.

After the Sunshine Mine disaster in Idaho's Silver Valley in 1972—a tragic event in which 91 miners were killed—Wright taught adult basic education classes at North Idaho College

to support the residents and miners whose lives were affected. Wright taught vocational subjects as well as job-seeking and interviewing skills for the displaced Idahoans. Wright expanded her course load to offer general education development (GED) courses, a college-preparedness curriculum and listening classes for local law enforcement.

In 1989 Wright was involved with a U.S. Department of Education program to improve elementary science education. Wright was selected as the Washington State site coordinator for a technology-based planetary science pilot program for grades two through six.

Wright partook in a Fulbright Teacher Exchange where she taught in England in 1990. After returning from her exchange, Wright went on to teach at East Valley School District in Spokane Valley, Washington, where she would retire from teaching nine years later in 2001.

Wright met her husband, Kenneth Wright '72, while teaching in The Dalles in 1966. Kenneth has a doctorate degree in chemistry from the University of Idaho. The couple have two sons, Clark and Cody, and reside in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.