

In Memorial of Mary Zamon, JMGR Founding Faculty Advisor

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It was only a few years ago when Mary Zamon walked into my office with an idea. Well, this was more than an idea but the beginning of a new and exciting effort growing from a single recommendation she made in her Higher Education Assessment Course – create a journal for graduate student work at Mason. Much to her surprise and delight, a small cadre of graduate students bonded together in tireless effort to establish the Journal of Mason Graduate Research, now in its second year of publication. Mary was nearing retirement at that time and needed someone to assist with the formal faculty advisor role. She, thankfully, thought that I would be a positive contributor to the work and a responsible co-conspirator in helping to support the efforts of the graduate students. What a ride this has become!

Let me be very clear: JMGR would not exist without Mary. She is the founding faculty advisor and the optimistic facilitator who helped to remove barriers, identify creative solutions, and assist with developing partnerships across campus, among other feats, all while authentically working in her role as an advisor and teacher. These qualities and behaviors of Mary would not be a surprise to the many colleagues, students, and community members that have had the privilege of working with Mary. She always saw herself as facilitating learning in others. From her work in institutional assessment, public school teaching and in graduate courses, to her efforts in helping my department create a new degree, Mary played a central role in challenging assumptions, establishing new perspectives, and supporting ideas. She was also always willing to volunteer to help any project come to fruition.

Mary is very much missed. All of us at JMGR had the distinct privilege of working alongside Mary, and her legacy continues in each of the Journal. The Journal of Mason Graduate Research is dedicated to her, our Emeritus and Founding Faculty Advisor. We hope to make you proud!

Dr. Mary E. Zamon, beloved wife of Frederick J. Zamon for over 47 years, passed away on Friday, November 7, 2014. She was diagnosed with cancer in April of 2013. Mary was born Mary Ellen Nelsen to Robert and Alice Nelsen on April 9, 1943. She is survived by three brothers and two sisters: Dr. Margaret Nelsen-Harker (twin sister), Joe Nelsen, Chris Nelsen, Cathy Nelsen, and Peter Nelsen; her husband, Fred Zamon; four children, Dr. Jen Zamon, Judy Panayos, Carla Zamon, and Andrew Zamon; four grandchildren; her beloved dog, Tessa; and a large flock of grand- and great-grand chickens.