

## Joyce Rubin

Joyce H. Rubin joined the Education faculty at Skidmore in 1997 as a full-time lecturer delivering courses in curriculum and instruction. In 2000 she became the Director of Student Teaching, a position she held until 2005. Joyce then took on the position of Department Chair, one of the few non-tenure track faculty who have tackled this position. During Joyce's thirteen-year career at Skidmore her passion for teaching and her deep professional commitment to the teaching profession have always been evident in her interactions with students.

Joyce first came to Skidmore College after a 34 year career working in New York City public schools, which included 19 years of teaching in The Bronx and Brooklyn working, with children from Prekindergarten to the sixth grade. Joyce's Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Education degrees were completed at Hunter College in 1960 and 1962 respectively. After teaching for 19 years as a public school teacher Joyce became a Curriculum Development Consultant to the New York City School Districts and in 1979 she became the Director of Gifted Programs in Brooklyn, New York. She held this position from 1979 until she retired in 1994. That was the first time Joyce retired. During this time she went to work for the New York City Chancellor's Task Force as a gifted and talented consultant for one year. She then became a part of the New York State Commissioner's Task Force to continue work in the area of gifted and talented education and also worked with Howard Gardner. As an active member in the field of gifted and talented education Joyce presented at national, state, and regional conferences as she worked behind the scenes for the New York State Association for Gifted and Talented Education as both Board member and President.

Joyce has been highly respected and well loved by students during her years at Skidmore. She has guided Education Majors through the good times and the difficult, thoughtfully nurturing students and helping individuals become effective pre-service teachers. As a strong mentor to Education students Joyce is also aware of the responsibility of sending fully prepared teachers into the field, so at times this mentoring has included working with students to find different career paths. Joyce's standards for what it takes to be an effective teacher have always been of the highest caliber, because she has been on the front lines for many years and understands the complexity and challenges of teaching. Her constructivist views of teaching and learning have inspired Education Majors, many of whom have become shakers and movers in the schools in which they work. Some have gone on to teach in urban areas based on coursework taken with Joyce.

Joyce has also served the broader educational community. Her work with University Without Walls in establishing the Antigua program gave Skidmore Education Majors the opportunity to work and teach in Antigua while earning college credit. Joyce also presented many workshops on innovative approaches to teaching while in Antigua. She was also responsible for organizing the Junior Block trip to Brooklyn, which entailed classroom visits and teaching in her old school. These journeys provided rich experiences for Education majors.

In Joyce's final chapter at Skidmore she took on the responsibility of serving as Chair of the Education Studies Department, a position she held for four years. Joyce worked hard to keep the momentum of the Department moving forward and gave it her all, but when she finally went back to "just teaching" Joyce was radiant. This is why she signed on to work at Skidmore and why she not only came out of retirement the first time, but why she delayed retiring for many more years. This passion for teaching is electric and Joyce crackles with it when she is in front of her students.