

# Katherine Muma

## Retired after 27 years of service

Kit came to Ithaca College in 1991. She has been a core member of the Biology Faculty, working especially with many of the large service courses over the years. Kit taught laboratories in Fundamentals of Biology for HSHP students and took over the course in 1996. She also was established in Primary Human Anatomy labs for Pf majors, and since 2000 she has taught the lecture and coordinated the labs for this foundational course. In 2013 she developed a Natural Sciences perspective course for the Mind, Body, Spirit theme entitled "Bird Brains and Mind Games: Animal Consciousness" which incorporates contemplative education in the form of meditation and questions relating to the concept of "self". Kit has also provided exemplary courses within the Biology major, including Biology of Aging and Biology of Birds. Her true love is birds, and when ornithologist John Confer retired, she flew at the opportunity to teach the Field Ornithology course as well.

Although there were no research expectations from her NTEN position, Kit continued research during summers at the Queen's University Biological Station in Ontario; she won numerous provost summer research grants to support this work. Her interests have led to scholarly contributions on a variety of topics from timing of hummingbird migration, host-parasite relationships in dragonflies, sex ratios and the effect of climate change on red-winged blackbirds, auditory sensitivity in diurnal moths, and bird-window collisions on college campuses.

Kit and her husband Bruce Smith (who retired in 2014 from the Biology Department) plan to return to live in Canada where they will continue some research projects while setting aside quality time for kayaking. They also hope to travel back to New Zealand and the South Pacific where they went on two of their sabbatical trips.

