

# DEDICATION

## MARTA DANYLEWYCZ

These statements, written by Marta's students at the time of her tragic death, express their feelings at the loss of a teacher and a friend.



"Marta was a rare individual. She chose to look into a part of history that many deemed worthless. She made it interesting and left you wanting to learn more. She was very dedicated to her interest in the lives of women throughout the history of Canada. This very special lady was so intelligent and bubbly. She will leave a mark forever on me, both in her role as a teacher – for she gave so much to her students in making a course interesting, informative, and exciting – and as a person in her personality. Even though she was private she gave a lot."

– Arva Brierley

"It is too late; however, I was going to write to someone and tell them what a fantastic lecturer I felt she was. In my letter, I was going to mention how sensitive and understanding she was. I have not taken many courses, but I marvelled at how organized the whole course was. If you had difficulties, she was more than supportive and helpful. If something needed improving in your written assignments, she wrote about a page of comments, both constructive and positive. Her enthusiasm, her dedication, her dynamic personality made her course just a delight."

– Nancy Broad

"Marta was a wonderful example of a determined woman. She was able in a few months to instill in me a new view of a feminist. A gentle, caring person with a concern for each of us in the class – by the second week she knew our names. Very enthusiastic about what she taught. She made me appreciate the neglect of women

in history – makes me want to do a degree in women's studies to help further what Marta started. She would not have been afraid to die, but what a terrible waste."

– Sandra Erickson

"Marta was a young, vibrant, brilliant woman who knew her work and taught it magnificently. She had a deep understanding of women's history, and imparted her information with candor and clearness, so we all understood what she had to say. Indeed, we could even feel it and live it. I enjoyed her course very much, and it made me glad to be a woman. She was easy to listen to and anxious to please. I felt comfortable with her if I had a problem. She went out of her way to help anyone who needed help. We could phone her at home or at the office at any time of day or night."

– Margaret Harding

"An extremely dedicated professor, who was always there for her students, Marta found delight in her students' interests and successes. Her enthusiasm for her studies was contagious and her continued support will always be remembered. She will be sadly missed."

– Diane Lambersky

"Marta, through her understanding, genuine concern and commitment to us, her students, was able to make us open up, be frank, be honest, and passionate about this course. Her lectures, reading material and class discussions were never dull, but stimulating. She was a human being I could respect and relate to. Her warmth and sincerity touched us all. Her example pushed us to strive, to do, to try to reach our potentials."

– Sylvana Marini

"Marta was the most caring, approachable, understanding person in the world, with a heart of gold. She took the time to show



me where I was going wrong, gave me the opportunity to try again to improve myself. She was truly wonderful, with a brilliant mind and so much to give to the world. I loved her with all my heart. May God rest her soul."

– Elizabeth Sinclair

"Marta was unique – a person who cared about each one of us. She awoke in me an awareness of the "Women's Question" that I hadn't had before. She worked hard for us and expected us to do the same – but was always ready to talk to us at home or from her office. My life changed just knowing Marta. I was going to tell her this in a note. I have three daughters and I am already passing on to them what I have learned from Marta – especially the one who is in university."

–Noreen Stuckless

"Marta was a unique professor who showed warmth and sincere concern for her students. Her lectures were interesting and it was a delight listening to her. Her interest in Canadian women was genuine and showed through her enthusiasm."

– Marj Skellas

"Marta was a vibrant, remarkably exciting professor. Her lectures were organized and wonderfully enlightening. Whether I was ill or not I came to class because I did not want to miss her prepared lecture. She had remarkable knowledge of her topic and shared her knowledge so freely. She gave all of herself to her students. She opened up a new world of interest to me. She has left a mark on my life which I shall never lose. She will be truly missed."

– Mario Tamburro

"The history of women has been a difficult struggle, with the rewards being small and slow. Marta gave insight to the struggles of women and she made me feel hopeful that the future would be



better for women. She knew her material so well. I loved listening to her lecture. God rest her soul. I will pray for her."

– Kathleen Walsh

"Marta was the warmest, most giving professor I have ever had the good fortune to have had. No other professor had ever been so well-prepared each evening to face the students in his/her class. This was my first female professor and my first women's studies course. Every Thursday night with Marta was sheer pleasure! She was such a conscientious teacher. Every lecture was cross-referenced with appropriate written materials. The chosen articles, books and essays were of enormous benefit to our understanding of women's history. She instilled in me a deep desire to use archival sources for my research. For this reason I spent two weeks in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. She would phone and ask how things were going. She took pleasure in my pleasure. I will never, never forget her!"

– Janet L. Travers

"What can I say about Professor Marta Danylewycz? That she was a bright Slavic beauty on the brink of a brilliant career; that she was gentle yet strong, a strict marker but a soft touch for those few needed days of extension on an overdue term paper; that she had a lively sense of fun yet a serious credibility. Marta (as she insisted we call her) taught evening classes to some of us part-time students who, in addition, hold full-time jobs and manage a family or home in the great juggling act known as "continuing education."

Some evenings I looked at the tired faces on some of us present and wondered what we would be able to absorb in the next three hours of the lecture. But Marta breathed life into the figures from the past whom she paraded into the classroom: our tired faces became alive with interest. Our women's history course was exciting and informative. In some lectures I found myself on the edge of my seat, cheering these early feminists and first female settlers of Canada whom Marta introduced to us. In other lectures I was full of compassion and anger as Marta enlightened us with facts about the trials and difficulties of our pioneer sisters struggling for the vote and equality.

I am only too grateful that my life touched Marta's in some small way and from this experience I am enriched. She had a genuine commitment to women's studies, not an interest because it was fashionable or might bring her recognition: she believed in it with all of her heart. Women's history is a valid study to be discovered, researched and taught."

– Kathy Monaghan