

# Gay retires after 38 years of service at YSU

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"The things I plan to take with me are all the meaningful memories of the extraordinary students and my wonderful colleagues", said Professor Thomas Gay, English.

Gay is retiring after 38 years of being a member of the YSU faculty. Gay said he came to YSU after Karl Dykema asked him to join the faculty.

Gay explained that Dykema was the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the director of the literature and language department and chair of the English department when Gay was a student at Youngstown College.

Gay said, "I was a student of his and he advised me to apply for graduate school at Ohio State University." Gay said that he was accepted into three graduate programs as a graduate assistant based on the recommendation by Dykema.

While a student at Youngstown College, Gay carried a dual major of psychology and English. He said, "I used a psychological approach to analyze literature. I chose to attend graduate school and receive my doctorate in English because that was something that interested me more. Actually, I think I learned more about psychology through the analysis of literature and characters than I would have in any psych. class."

Gay said that he has nothing but good memories of his teach-

ing at YSU and said that he never felt like he was working because he enjoyed teaching so much.

He said, "Grading papers was always exasperating but it was still a good experience." He also said that his favorite classes were any of the drama classes since he has been interested in theater since he was a child.

He commented on his interest in the theater by saying, "I take my five children to plays and I go to

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*Soyoung Yang*  
**Thomas Gay**

# Gay

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New York as often as I can. I have seen every Broadway play that is playing right now."

Gay said that the one thing that makes YSU's English Department so special is that the full-time professors teach the basic composition courses and take part in the teaching of basic writing skills. He said, "At most universities, the composition classes are taught by graduate assistants and part-time faculty members."

Gay said that the accomplishment that he is most proud of as a 'part of YSU' is his work with the English Festival. He and his wife, Carol, co-founded the English Festival many years ago. "She died nine years ago, but her memory lives on through this achievement", he said.

Gay explained his pride by saying, "The English Festival introduced thousands of young people to the joy of reading. The need to read is essential for the development of interesting, educated adults. The English Festival established a close relationship between YSU and community teachers and showed them their options for teaching literature to young people."

Gay bought a house in Rockport, MA two years ago. He said that he and his wife had always planned to live there, so that is where he is going to enjoy his retirement. He said, "I will miss YSU and I will always remember it as my home."