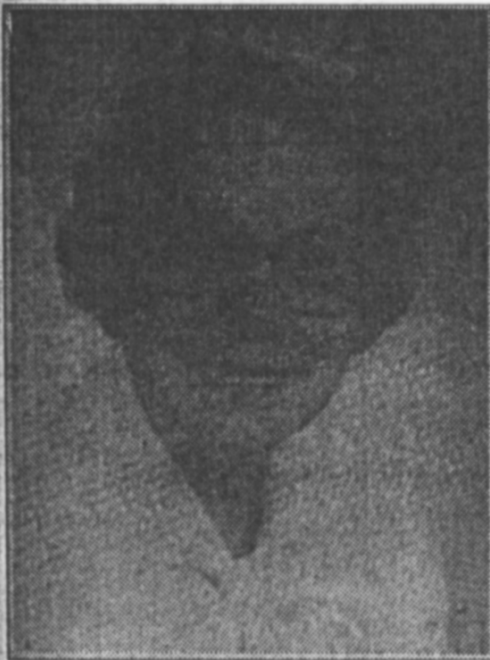


Well-Known English Professor Dies At Home



Dr. Murphy

CYNTHIA LOVAN
News Editor

Dr. Gratia Murphy, YSU English professor of 37 years, died Thursday at home. Services for Murphy, 68, of 210 Christian Ave., were held yesterday morning.

Murphy, who was known to many YSU students for her class on "Chaucer and The Medieval World," was a four-time winner of YSU's Distinguished Professor Award and had also been recognized outside the University as Ohio Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, as Woman of the Year in Edu-

cation by the Youngstown YWCA and Educator of the Year by the Ohio Department of Education. At the time of her death she was nominated for the Ohio Woman's Hall of Fame.

She was recently honored by YSU's Academic Senate in February and at a luncheon held at the Youngstown Club last month.

"She provided a role model for teachers, students and scholars—and for women in all walks of life," said Dr. Sandra Stephen, chair, English department.

According to Stephen, Murphy, who began her career as a teacher in Brookfield Highschool, did extensive work to improve writing instruction in area schools from K through 12 in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"Gratia Murphy's resume modestly described her work with schools as 'consulting'; this description does not even begin to reflect the hours of work, the energy, the commitment or the enthusiasm" that she brought to her work in the education system, Stephen explained.

Because of her work, she was appointed to several major state education committees and was chosen to help design and write

instructions for high school English proficiency exams. Murphy helped "shape that test into a fair assessment instrument" and her efforts "were a deciding factor in the development of an essay test rather than an objective test" Stephan said.

Murphy also worked with the Writing Center Organization and the Developmental Education Association and developed a peer tutor training program for them.

Stephen said, "It was a privilege to have had the opportunity of working with and learning from Gratia Murphy. The English department and the University has sustained a great loss."

Excerpts from Dr. Sandra Stephen, chair English department:

"She was a remarkable teacher and super human being."

"Gratia Murphy was also an outstanding representative of women in the profession."